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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk May 20, 2012

EAST KENT EDITION

Issue no 504

Police leader warning of privatisation threat from budget cuts

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE chairman of Kent Police Federation has made an impassioned plea for the force to remain in public hands, as other counties look to farm out traditional police work to private companies.

Ian Pointon voiced his concerns over the "inherent threat" of privatisation, despite Kent Police so far steering clear of any form of outsourcing.

A spokeswoman for the force said there were no plans to privatise any departments as a result of budget cuts, which amount to £50 million over four years.

But the chairman of the rank-and-file organisation questioned how long it would be until Kent followed the lead of other counties, such as Surrey and West Midlands.

The two forces recently sparked con-

trovery by meeting with delegates from the private sector, including security firms, in a bid to outsource functions previously carried out by police, such as neighbourhood patrols.

The contentious move – which sparked protests from two unions – aims to help fill the gaps in service left by huge budget cuts.

Mr Pointon said he feared the deep cuts in Kent would force the new police and crime commissioner, due to be elected in November, "into the arms of the private sector".

Writing in KoS this week, he said: "Does all this really matter? Not only does it matter, it should be of huge concern to everyone.

"When Sir Robert Peel established policing he chose a specific model; he chose policing by the people for the people; he chose policing by consent;

Continued on page 2



FACING UP TO FIGHT ESTUARY AIRPORT

IN IT TOGETHER: We've won before and we'll win again, vow campaigners – **SEE INSIDE**

ENVIRONMENT

Countryside litter louts

KENT needs to clean up its act if the problem of litter is not to ruin the opportunity for the county to showcase itself during the Olympics. That's the view of the High Sheriff, Michael Bax, who said some mums are to blame for letting kids toss fast-food wrappers out of car windows. **PAGE 7**

EDUCATION

Shortage of school places

EDUCATION chiefs have admitted needing thousands of additional school places – the equivalent of 18 new primaries and two new secondaries, in just four years. A new KCC report forecasts a significant rise of more than 10,000 primary school-aged pupils in the next few years. **PAGE 9**

SPORT

Rugby league big day out

TODAY marks a milestone for rugby league in the south with the visit of Super League giants London Broncos and Hull FC to Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium. It's a pleasing day for Kent's only rugby league side the Medway Dragons, whose players and supporters will be packing the ground. **PAGE 86**

A SCORCHING SUMMER AT THE LEAS CLIFF HALL...

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LEGEND TO SING



Kent Weekend



Lord of the drums



ELP's Carl Palmer to perform the hits



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Weather



Sheerness 15, Margate 15, Dover 15, Ashford 10, Folkestone 15, Tunbridge Wells 14, Dungeness 15

TODAY: Rain and drizzle, heavy at times. Moderate to fresh winds. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). TONIGHT: Rain clearing. Breezy. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.45	6.2	23.57	6.3
Margate	00.20	4.5	12.44	4.4
St Mary's	05.09	5.2	17.27	5.3

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 15C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 21C	Min 9C
Thursday	Max 20C	Min 10C
Friday	Max 20C	Min 11C
Saturday	Max 21C	Min 11C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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'Fewer people creates chance for private sector to step in'

Continued from front page

modelled it as a civil not a military authority. It's imperative policing continues to be accountable to the public and not to shareholders."

Earlier this month, 400 off-duty officers from Kent were among 35,000 to march in protest through London.

"They didn't march over pay and pensions," said Mr Pointon. "They marched to preserve policing by consent."

This week, frustrations felt by the police boiled over at the Police Federation conference when Home Secretary Theresa May was heckled after attempting to justify the radical policing reforms and deep cuts.

Kent Police are suffering a 20 per cent budget reduction over four years which will result in 500 fewer officers and 1,000 less staff. The need for savings has also pushed the force to look at potential closures of police stations and public enquiry counters in a bid to save £779,000.

Mr Pointon said despite the cuts, so far the force has yet to surrender any of its responsibilities and functions.

"It's business as usual – just with considerably fewer people. This creates a service delivery gap and, in turn, an economic opportunity for the private sector to step in.

"In other police forces

privatisation is already happening. This is all done in the name of keeping police officers on the street.

"That's laudable many will say, streamlining what they term the 'back office' to bolster the frontline.

"Now look at what is happening in Surrey and West Midlands Police forces where they are actively engaging with the private sector, inviting bids for police roles such as neighbourhood patrol, crime investigation and managing high-risk offenders. These aren't back office roles, they are frontline police roles."

Last month, Chief Constable of Kent Police Ian Learmonth

told this newspaper he was "upbeat" about starting the financial year, due to the force saving more funds than anticipated of between £1m and £1.5m due to the Winsor review, which is looking into police pay.

Mr Learmonth admitted a growing feeling of confidence, but said there was still a "hill to climb".

Since savings plans were put in place, 225 police officer posts have gone and 472 staff.

But he said despite the cuts, there had been a four per cent drop in crime.

"That's 4,000 less victims of crime," he said. "Police officers and staff have been messed

about with a reduction in officer numbers and significant reduction in numbers of police staff, but there has still been a reduction in crime.

"They are fed-up, but they still carry out fantastic work.

"I have worked in four different forces and Kent Police is head and shoulders above every other force in the country."

Mr Learmonth said due to the positive position in relation to financial savings, Kent Police had recently been able to recruit 20 new officers, with plans to recruit an additional smaller number after the Olympics.

■ To read Ian Pointon's full opinion piece, please turn to page 32.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Hall to review £24m investment in tobacco after pension fund ethics row

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



FINANCE chiefs at Kent County Council will review the decision to invest £24 million in tobacco firms after coming under fire over its duty to protect the public's health.

It follows calls from Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean for the council to withdraw the controversial superannuation fund investment, which is part of KCC's pension fund portfolio.

The council invested £24m in firms including Philip Morris, Imperial Tobacco, Altria Group, and Japan Tobacco, amounting to one per cent of all its investments.

KCC argues it brings in the highest return and to remove that would leave a huge funding gap resulting in the possibility of increased council tax or cuts to services.

But Cllr Dean argued most people would not want their pension in something that kills people.

"I think KCC has a responsibility to invest responsibly. I think most people would react badly when I told about this type of investment," she said.

"We spend £360m a year in 'clearing up' the results of people smoking; £250m is on lost days of work with people having to be off due to smoking related diseases; £70m is NHS costs. Taxpayers are footing the bill every year for this while KCC is pumping in £24m in investment.

"It's like a fire brigade pouring petrol on a fire while trying to put it out."

Cllr Dean said a draft report by the Public Health Unit warned the investment could be "incompatible" with KCC's duty to help protect the health of people in Kent.

She said that during Thursday's council meeting leader of KCC Cllr Paul Carter had agreed to review the investment later this year.

"I'm not confident, but I'm determined to push for the money to instead be invested in ethical companies," she added.

But finance member Cllr John Simmonds said tobacco had continued to deliver a high return and to remove that would leave a huge gap in the pension fund.

"This is a huge organisation and we have to deal with the economic reality. This investment generates £5m," he said.

"I'm a non-smoker and I don't like smoking, but the pension fund is independent from political control and looks for the best possible return on investments, and tobacco does get a stunningly good return and it's legal."

Cllr Simmonds said removing the investment would mean having to find a substitute, warning it could lead to cuts to services or an increase in council tax. He admitted it was a difficult ethical balance, but stressed that the pension fund needed to be preserved.

"If we start a process of elimination, we would have to look to other investments, too. For the time being it is responsible to stay as we are."

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CRIME

Young women drinking their way into the top 10 of league of shame

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAVY drinking among women under 21 in our county has got so bad that Kent came seventh in a national league table of the number of penalty tickets dished out by police.

In all, Kent officers dished out nearly 60 on-the-spot £80 fines for women that police believed were too drunk to be in public.

Topping the table by far was Northumbria with 238 fines, followed by Merseyside on 209, and Lancashire at 202.

Kent Police said that in 2011, some 59 penalty notices were issued to women under 21 for being drunk and disorderly.

Kent licensing and night-time economy officer, PC Barbara Murray said: "Kent Police continues to have a high-profile and pro-active approach to policing the night-time economy.

"Kent Police has a very close working relationship with the vast majority of our licensees, who are responsible, comply with the law, and not in the business of selling alcohol to drunk people.

"The neighbourhood teams have a responsibility to police our pubs and clubs and we have dedicated licensing officers in every district whose sole responsibility it is to enforce the Licensing Act 2003, which is the legislation that governs the sale and supply of alcohol.

"Those who do not comply with the law are dealt with robustly by way of the criminal courts and the licensing procedures."

The force said in addition, every district regularly undertakes operations to address drunkenness, anti-social behaviour and disorder which includes providing advice and support, proactive licensing visits, the use of the Ion Track drug trace device, using drug dogs, and intervention early in the evening between 6-9pm to address people who have already had enough to drink.

According to other figures, this time from



BAD FORM:

The county is in the top 10 of a national table of shame for women under the age of 21 receiving on-the-spot fines for being drunk and disorderly

health campaign group Balance, the South East including Kent, also came seventh in a table of the number of people under 18 treated for drink-related problems.

The South East saw 810 under 18s receiving some sort of therapy. They are included in the total of 11,910. Top of the list is the North East, followed by the North West and the Midlands.

Balance director Colin Shevills said: "We want to resolve these problems before they get to such an advanced stage and reduce the number of young lives affected by alcohol.

"Drinking too much from an early age is driven by alcohol which is too affordable, too available and too heavily promoted.

"This makes our children vulnerable, increasing the likelihood of them becoming victims of crime, having unprotected sex, saying yes to drugs, and damaging their education and potentially their future."

This week it was announced that Maidstone would get a share of a £1 million cash pot to help tackle the scourge of under-age drinking.

The county town is one of 10 areas across the UK chosen by Baroness Newlove, who is the Government's champion for Active Safer Communities, to receive help to tackle the effects of alcohol abuse.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Vorderman heroes plea

THE famous Dambusters honed their skills by dropping their bouncing bombs off the Reculver coast, and on the anniversary of their raid on the German dams, TV star Carol Vorderman has launched a campaign to remember the "forgotten" heroes of Bomber Command. The former Countdown star is patron of the Bomber Command Memorial Appeal which is collecting cash to build London memorial to the 55,000 heroes who crewed the aircraft.

➔ Tory MP quits 1922

CHATHAM MP Tracey Crouch this week stood down from the Conservatives' influential 1922 committee in a sign of disillusionment over supporters of Prime Minister David Cameron hoping to oust members of the perceived 'old guard'. Ms Crouch said: "I feel very uncomfortable with the factionalisation of the 1922. It will lose its independence. I have found my time on the 1922 interesting but I have now decided that I will focus on other priorities."

➔ Fair has grand designs

THE presenter of Channel 4's Grand Designs, Kevin McCloud, will be the star speaker at the Smallholding Fair at Sissinghurst Castle. The event on August 18-19 is aimed at anyone who has "thought about growing or producing on a small or large scale such as a window box or vegetable patch through to a smallholding or fully fledged farm". Also appearing is cookery writer, broadcaster and gardener Sarah Raven.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Once bitten, twice shy as council steers clear of Spanish banking

UNNERVED council chiefs caught out by the Icelandic banking collapse in 2008 have stopped investing millions of pounds in Santander amid fears of a growing financial crisis in Spain.

Kent County Council had listed Santander

as an approved bank and was earning interest through overnight deposits, at times of as much as £3 million.

But the authority has decided to temporarily stop putting in more money, due to worries over the Eurozone crisis.

Cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds said the council was not withdrawing permanently, but wanted to establish how ring-fenced the UK bank was from its Spanish parent. He said: "The worry for us is that, in the event of a crisis, client money in the UK could be pulled to Spain."

The nervousness over the situation stems from the Icelandic banking collapse in 2008.

KCC was among a number of authorities that were caught out by the crisis after investing £50m – more than any other public body in the UK – in three Icelandic banks.

The investment represented £32m from its

own reserves, £16m from Kent Pension Fund and £1m from Kent Fire and Rescue Authority.

The council had £17m frozen in Landsbanki and £15m in Glitnir as well as £18m in the UK-based Heritable Bank.

Despite the council recovering most of the money, the situation has left finance chiefs shaken.

Santander said client funds are ring-fenced from its parent bank and "money raised in Britain stays in Britain".

But KCC chiefs are remaining cautious. On financial website This Is Money, Santander spoke out over its ownership structure, stressing that it protected UK savers.

"Santander operates under a subsidiary model. This means Santander UK plc is completely autonomous from its Spanish parent company.

"This structure acts as a firewall to prevent problems within one part of the group spreading to other units in the event of financial difficulties.

"Santander also operates a 'firewall' approach to borrowing and lending in the markets it operates in. This means that money raised in the UK stays in the UK."



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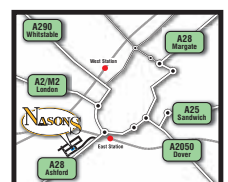
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CAMPAIGN

Ecological factors the key for campaign against airport plans

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT'S been 10 years since the victorious battle against plans to build an airport at Cliffe on the Hoo Peninsula.

But for the campaigners who fought so hard to bury the then-Government's contentious proposal, it could have been just yesterday.

For with two new plans on the table for a Thames Estuary airport uncertainty has been raised yet again for those living in north Kent.

But for the people who campaigned so hard against an airport at Cliffe in 2002-03, they already have the advantage of having come up against this contender before.

They also have the help and support of this newspaper, which has officially joined the ranks of the thousands opposed to the airport.

George Crozer, from Friends of the North Kent Marshes, likened this latest campaign to the 2003 battle, in which he played an instrumental part.

"The argument is exactly the same – this is a precious area that needs to be protected," he said. "We can look at what we did before and take from that."

"The problem is, unlike in 2003, we now have a failing economy. That is in the forefront of people's minds."

"The big thing back then was they couldn't put an airport at Cliffe because of it being a specially protected area. To do so, it would have had to have been in the national interest."

"Now with the economy how it is, it could be argued it is in the national interest."

But Mr Crozer continued:

LAST week, this newspaper declared its support for the campaign against controversial proposals to build an airport in the Thames Estuary. We believe that while there are clearly benefits in terms of jobs, the cost to the county would be so extreme that it would change Kent from a green and pleasant land to a sprawling mass of concrete and traffic.

Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk
Also email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to
Airport Campaign, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.

NO Estuary Airport

"Those who want the airport see it as a panacea for the jobs problem. There would be a few jobs for local people, yes, but most would be for people from out of the area who already have the skills required."

"Also, the jobs wouldn't be created for 10 or 15 years."

The last time the idea of an estuary airport reared its head was in 2002, when the then-Labour Government identified a site at Cliffe as the preferred site for an airport for London.

Campaigners launched a major fight and in December, 2003, ministers dismissed the proposal, citing overwhelming environmental reasons.

The latest plans involve the construction of an international hub on Grain by Lord Foster, or on reclaimed land in the estuary, promoted by Boris Johnson – the so-called Boris Island. Both would cost £50bn-£70bn.

Mr Crozer said it was vital the ecological importance of the site was the primary basis for the plans to be overturned.

"One of the reasons the plans could be turned down is if it's too costly, but really it needs to be about the fact this is an important ecological site."

"That is the only way people will stop coming back to the estuary with plans for an airport."

"[The area has] been looked at in 1940, in 1943, in the 1950s and then in 2003. The only way we can stop this uncertainty is for the Government to realise how important this site is ecologically."

The site is covered by five Special Protection Areas (SPA). This means it has been identified as of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds. This is a European designated site, protected under EU law.

The estuary is known worldwide for the thousands of migratory birds flying between Siberia and west Africa and fears have been raised over risk of bird strike to aircraft.

A headquarters, the same as that created in 2003, is being re-launched next to Mr Crozer's home in High Halstow.

It is expected to become the nerve centre of the campaign.

Medway Council is also involved in the latest fight, having played an instrumental part in the 2002-03 battle.

Leader Cllr Rodney Cham-



bers said the overwhelming environmental reasons given for the rejection of Cliffe airport back then hold true for all the Thames Estuary alternatives.

He added: "I urge your readers to help ground the idea of an airport on or near the Thames Estuary."

JUST SAY NO: Join the campaign against plans for a Thames Estuary airport

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Smoking cabbie fined

TAXI driver Steve Holewell was found guilty of smoking in his cab, by Folkestone Magistrates Court. Smoking in a taxi is against the law, as a taxi is deemed to be a public place under Section 7 Health Act 2006. Holewell was seen smoking by a council officer in July, 2011. He was given the opportunity to pay a fixed penalty notice but chose for the case to be heard at court. He was found guilty and fined £100, with £500 costs and a victim surcharge of £15.

➔ Final Hop Farm acts

ORGANISERS of this year's Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood have confirmed the final line-up of acts for the event on June 29-July 1. They include singer songwriter Jose Gonzalez, rockers Athlete, Nintin Sawhney, Taj Mahal and Mercury Prize nominated I Am Kloot. They join the line-up headlined by Bob Dylan, Peter Gabriel and Suede. Promoter Vince Power said: "We have again put together a unique set of acts you're not going to see repeated everywhere else."

➔ F1 star Button at Brands

McLAREN Formula 1 star and 2009 World Champion Jenson Button will make a guest appearance at Sunday's DTM event at Brands Hatch. At 11.10am Button will briefly sign autographs before taking part in a live question and answer session with ex-F1 star David Coulthard. Button will take the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz DTM 'race taxi' with current DTM championship leader Gary Paffett alongside.

BOLD STEPS

Alternative aviation solutions

COUNTY Hall chiefs have released an ambitious aviation plan which looks to divert the focus away from the Thames Estuary.

In a new document called Bold Steps for Aviation, Kent County Council sets out recommendations to help the UK meet its aviation capacity needs by looking at regional airports and improved rail connectivity.

The report strongly recommends that "any proposals for the Thames Estuary airport are not progressed further".

"The authority does not consider this a viable solution and remains opposed to any airport within this location," said KCC.

The recommendations include:

■ Construction of an airside high-speed rail link connecting Gatwick and Heathrow.

■ Improved connectivity of other regional airports, such as Manston and Lydd, with

Gatwick and Heathrow.

■ Further development of Manston and other existing regional airports in the South East, as well as those with good connections to London, such as Birmingham.

■ Capacity growth at Gatwick through the addition of a second runway after 2019.

KCC said: "Rather than depending on an estuary airport that will take years to develop and may not even succeed, better use of our existing airports now will ensure the UK retains its premier position as a hub airport."

Bold Steps for Aviation cites KCC's concerns over proposals for a Thames estuary airport, in particular the cost of such a venture, the impact on communities living within the Medway area, the damage to the environment, and the significant risk issues associated with locating an airport in the estuary.

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News

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FUNDRAISING

Charity golf day tees up

THE Avenues Trust Group's Annual White Hat Golf Challenge takes place on May 30 to raise money for sports projects for disabled people. The event is at West Malling Golf Club. Organisers say it would make an ideal team-building opportunity for businesses. For information please Lauren Osman on 020 3535 0521 or email lauren.osman@avenuesgroup.org.uk.

REGENERATION

Lotto bid still in the running

A PARTNERSHIP of Kent County Council, Shepway council and the Creative Foundation has won through the first round of a process to secure up to £1.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund for improvements to streets and buildings in the Folkestone Conservation Area. The project aims to renovate or refurbish a number of buildings, including the former Millets building.

ARTS

A lifetime of memories on board unique boat heading to Kent coast

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SPECIAL yacht sailing its way to Kent and built from pieces of wood donated by people from across the UK can be seen up close when it moors at Margate in July.

The builders wanted a vessel that really meant something to Brits, so in their appeal for donated wood they stipulated they didn't just want any old pieces – it had to be significant to the donor.

The result is an astonishing boat made from the memories of all that helped out.

The appeal was launched two years ago, and now finally the Collective Spirit has now been launched.

It should be on view from several Kent towns during its journey around the south coast, and is on course to be off Dover on July 9-10; Folkestone on July 10; Ramsgate on July 10-12; stopping at Margate on July 13-16; and then can be seen on July 18 off Gravesend.



Picture: TOBY ADAMSON

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE:

The crew, Lone Twin and the build team aboard Collective Spirit for the first time before setting sail for its trip to celebrate the Games

During the stop at Margate, one of only five planned, there will be three days of activity bringing together key cultural organisations in the town.

There is to be an evening of community-based celebrations including a Late Night Live at the Turner Contemporary to mark the boat's arrival.

Other activities includes a late-night outdoor bicycle cinema also at the Turner Contemporary; community processions meeting at the harbour to exchange gifts with the boat; and work by new writers being performed at the Theatre Royal Margate, plus a performance of a new choral commission by Megan Henwood.

The 30ft sailing boat's journey is in celebration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It was created by arts company Lone Twin, and is one of 12 Artist Taking the Lead projects, which is the UK Arts Council's flagship

project for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Collective Spirit was created using around 1,200 donations, including a tiny piece of the Mary Rose, another from HMS Victory which was built in Chatham, a sliver of Jimi Hendrix's guitar, a salad server in the shape of a spanner, a plank from the new London 2012 Velodrome, a piece of the Brighton Pier, several hockey sticks, and a Victorian policeman's truncheon.

Other donations included crates used to transport British securities like gold to Canada during World War Two, and a hairbrush used by a make-up artist at Pinewood Studios in the 1960s.

Gary Whelan of Lone Twin said: "We are marking thousands of lives and built something quite extraordinary out of them. It is something sociable – this is all about people."

■ For more information on Collective Spirit, visit www.theboatproject.com.

Advertisement

Problem solved

Sidcup street goes Dutch to rid their homes of damp

No mess, no problem



Lisa Smith and neighbour, Peter Roberts

AFTER completely modernising her home in Sidcup, Lisa Smith did not want to ruin her hard work by fitting a damp proof course.

Her neighbour Peter recommended Holland Damp Proofing and Lisa, 55, gave them a call. "We didn't want to start hacking into walls or replastering and that's the beauty of Holland Damp Proofing – it doesn't damage

anything internally," said Lisa.

"It's great that there are no chemicals involved because that means it is environmentally friendly and I knew there would be no harmful effect on my pets."

Lisa's neighbour Peter Roberts, 75, who had the damp proof course installed in April 2011 said: "All the damp has disappeared - I would give them 11 out of 10."

Your questions answered by the UK's leading non-chemical damp proofing company

What are the signs of damp?

The signs of damp in your home can come and go whether you have drought, floods or May sunshine – but the damp will still be there. Tell-tale signs to look for are a musty smell, stained or peeling wallpaper, bubbling paint, rust marks around nails on skirting boards and mould growth on walls.

Why is it important to treat damp?

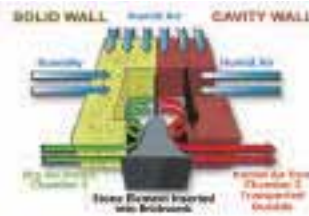
It's easy to ignore the signs of damp, but if left untreated it can get much worse, damaging the very fabric of your home and posing serious health risks, especially for those with medical conditions such as asthma or rheumatism.

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The system was originally developed in The Netherlands where 60% of homes are built below sea level – so it's got a long and successful history. The idea is simple: draw out the moisture and the damp will disappear. This involves a series of small, damp-regulating bricks which neatly fit into the external walls of your home, close to the ground. These cleverly allow air to flow in and out of the brick chambers letting the wall breathe.



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ENVIRONMENT

High Sheriff tells mums to stop letting kids drop fast food litter on country roads

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE county needs to clean up its act if the growing problem of litter is not to ruin the opportunity for the county to showcase itself during the Olympic Games.

That's the view of the county's High Sheriff, Michael Bax, who said some mums are to blame letting their kids toss fast-food wrappers out of car windows, and he is calling on every Kent resident to have some "pride" in their home.

He said: "The litter on Kent's rural roads is becoming a negative and noticeably regular topic of conversation.

"From June onwards, Kent will be one of the gateways to the Olympics and the county owes it to itself to make a serious effort to clean up its act."

Mr Bax is also senior partner at chartered surveyors BTF Partnership. He acts for landowners, farmers and rural estates across the county.

He realises litter may not be top of the agenda for many people, but he added: "There are plenty of more important things to worry about, but as far as I am concerned, the county's roads are in a fair old pickle, and are as bad as they have been for a long time.

"The reason I feel it is appropriate to bring this up now is because we have the run in to the Olympics with Kent being the gateway to the Games, and it would be a pity if the county doesn't look good.

"I am told pretty much all the accommodation has been booked and a lot of that is in rural areas, and it is those areas that are pretty bad.

"The second thing is Natural England has published their Countryside Code and it was that which set me on this trail.

"When I was a kid the country code was widely marketed; things like shut gates, don't start fires and pick up litter, all that sort of thing.

"When I was young, we all knew it. Nowadays, I think it has disappeared, which is why Natural England has republished it. I think this is a great time to clean up and learn the countryside code again."

Mr Bax's family can trace its roots back some 600 years in Kent and has been farming for all but 200 years of that time.

He said: "I think people's morale will be better if they are not living in a sordid environment.

"I am thinking of various country lanes that I know where every time one goes back, there are new McDonald's cartons and mugs along the side of the road.

"It is quite clear this is a minority of the population – it is one or two mums who go to McDonald's for burgers and so on, and before they get home, they say to their kids 'chuck the kit out of the window'."

Mr Bax, from Shadoxhurst, said: "I think there needs to be a change



KEEP KENT TIDY: Michael Bax wants people to look after the Kent countryside

in people's mindset when it comes to leaving rubbish behind. It would be nice if we could all have a bit more pride in our county. This small minority are making a terrible mess.

"We need to enter into the spirit of keeping Kent clean.

"Not only will picking up litter keep Kent looking beautiful but it will also

help remove a dangerous hazard to farm animals and wildlife.

"As High Sheriff of Kent, can I please ask the county to practice these basic principles at every level in the community, both young and old.

"Kent is a wonderful county – let's reverse the bad habits of the minority and show our county to the world."

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News

COUNTY COUNCIL

Case of mistaken identity saw KCC worker paid council chief's expenses

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

RED-FACED Kent County Council chiefs have admitted an embarrassing error which saw a maintenance fitter with the same name as leader Cllr Paul Carter (inset) paid £20,000 in allowance payments.

The mistake, which involved a mix-up with bank details, saw a KCC employee at Aylesford Commercial Services Depot – also called Paul Carter – paid the Tory chief's allowance in addition to his own salary for several months in 2007.

A KCC spokeswoman said as soon as the error was discovered action was taken to reclaim the money.

But at this point the other Paul Carter had left the country and is now believed to be in Eastern Europe. Only £768.99 was recovered.

"Some money was repaid, but a total of £20,629.01 was not," the spokeswoman said.

"The member of staff resigned and then left the country and we have not been able to trace them for repayment.

"The cost of finding this person would be too expensive to the taxpayer, and we have had to reluctantly write the debt off.

"Clearly, if he were to be found in the UK, we would look at reclaiming the outstanding sum."

The payments were made to the maintenance man, who was then aged 54, from September, 2007, to March, 2008.



ENVIRONMENT

Stub and bin your butts

'DO the stubby-ouity-binnny thing' and dispose of your cigarette butts responsibly – was the key message of the Love Where You Live campaign, launched in Tonbridge and Malling this week. Personal mini-bins were handed out to members of the public, and are perfect for stubbing out and storing cigarette ends. They are available while stocks last from the Borough Council's Kings Hill Council offices, Tonbridge Gateway, or email lovewhereyoulive@tmbsc.org.uk.

CRIME

No charge in baby case

A WOMAN, 34, arrested after a one-month-old baby was assaulted in Gravesend has been released without charge. She was arrested following the incident on December 1, but has been told she will not face charges. Nathan Rawling, of St Gregory's Crescent, Gravesend, was charged last Friday with causing grievous bodily harm with intent. The 35-year-old appeared at court last Saturday and was given conditional bail. The baby has made a full recovery.

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EDUCATION

Huge bill predicted as KCC faces shortfall of 10,000 school places

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

EDUCATION chiefs have admitted needing thousands of additional school places – the equivalent of 18 new primaries and two new secondaries in just four years.

In a new report, Kent County Council said forecasts suggest a significant rise of more than 10,000 primary school-aged pupils in the next few years.

And while the secondary-aged population looks set to reduce between now and 2015, numbers will then start to rise, peaking at around 83,000 by 2021.

KCC has frequently been accused by education experts and parents of failing to plan ahead in terms of school places.

Education expert Peter Read of Kent Independent Education Advice said while some of the principles in the report should be applauded, the matter should have been addressed some years ago.

"If this had come in 2009, there would have been money there, but KCC denied there was a problem," he said.

"KCC now has to try and find the finance."

In its new Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, which looks at predicted birth rates and new housing over the next few years, the council sets out an aim to make sure there is a surplus of places of at least five per cent.

But Mr Read warned that this five per cent would cover the whole county, rather than districts, such as Tunbridge Wells, Gravesend and Thanet, which struggle with primary provision.

He added: "KCC is not allowed to build new schools; only new academies and free schools can be built.

"One example is the Tiger free school which is being built on the grounds of the half empty New Line Learning Academy in Maidstone.

"This doesn't help those on the other side of Maidstone where there is actually a problem with provision."

In its new plan, KCC vows to increase the percentage of parents securing their preferred schools, after figures last month showed 800 pupils were denied places at their three preferred primary schools for September, 2012, with the highest numbers in Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Thanet.

Cabinet member for education Cllr Mike Whiting said KCC wants to make sure there are enough high-quality places available for children and young people by expanding good schools, securing investment in new ones, and providing additional places in the areas where there is growth in numbers.

"This document attempts to capture all known births and housing developments and development proposals, by district, to forecast how many early years places, primary places and secondary places we will need from 2012 to 2017," he said.

"It looks at each district separately, so that we can plan local school places where new houses are being built, and not by simply enlarging a school on the other side of the borough.

"The plan is a draft and we are actively seeking feedback from our district council colleagues, headteachers, GPs, housebuilders, parish and town councils and others.

"It will be reviewed every six months so that

forecasts can be amended to take into account new housing proposals as they come forward."

KCC said the plan was more than just "number crunching" and that it set out the council's ambition for Kent to be one of the best places for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.

The authority is also looking to have at least 85 per cent of primary and secondary schools, and all special schools, to be judged as good or better.

Cllr Whiting said: "Good and outstanding schools are the basis of strong communities and a strong local economy.

"Our aim is to make sure there is a good choice of local schools for parents and that we increase the number of parents who are satisfied with the school places offered for their child.

"Securing good quality school places in every community is essential for every young person to have the best start in life."

To view the draft Commissioning Plan for Education, and submit comments by June 19 visit www.kent.gov.uk/EducationProvision.

Feedback from this consultation will contribute towards the final version of the plan, which will be published in the autumn.

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A CLASS APART: KCC says good schools are the basis of a strong community

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News

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ENTERTAINMENT

Diana Vickers in Sound Island gig

X FACTOR star turned musical and pop star, Diana Vickers has joined the line up at this summer's Sound Island Festival at Quex Park.

The number one selling singer joins Olly Murs, Rizzle Kicks, Cover Drive and A*M*E at the Thanet concert on July 29.

The star was a semi-finalist in the 2008 X Factor, and was mentored by Cheryl Cole.

She secured a record deal with RCA in 2009, although her first single and album were delayed after she landed the lead in the West End revival of The Rise and Fall of Little Voice.

The pop line up concludes the festival which kicks off the day before with something of a 1990s revival. On the Saturday, James headline with the likes on Inspiral Carpets, Echo & The Bunnymen, Cast, Space and The Farm.

Concert spokesperson Dion Clements said: "Adding Diana to the line up only adds yet more value to this event for pop fans, as well as offering further diversity of tastes. The Sound Island Festival is really shaping up to be an epic event."

CRIME

Author's claims that backpacker Falconio is alive are 'cheap stunt'

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN AUSTRALIAN author has sparked fury over claims British backpacker Peter Falconio was not murdered, and is still alive.

And in a move which has upset many, he has put up posters close to where the young man went missing in Australia, offering a £25,000 reward for information leading to proof he is not dead.

Mr Falconio, who worked at Pfizer in Sandwich, and his girlfriend Joanne Lees were travelling in Australia's Northern Territory in 2001 when the vehicle they were travelling in was ambushed.

Ms Lees was bound and gagged but managed to escape. Mr Falconio was never seen again.

Known criminal and drug runner Bradley Murdoch was arrested in 2003 and found guilty during a trial in 2005. He has always protested his innocence.

But now author Keith Allan Noble says he is determined to prove his theory Mr Falconio is still alive.

He has pasted up posters around Alice Springs in Australia and says he believes Mr Falconio could be living in Italy or even the UK.

He says he's repeatedly written to Peter's parents Luciano and Joan at their home in West Yorkshire without reply.

He told this newspaper: "I don't understand what the outrage is all about."

Mr Noble, 60, claims he is unaware the Falconio family has ever spent a single day actually looking for their son.

He said: "As far as we can tell, no death certificate has ever been issued and Falconio has allegedly been dead for more than 10 years now."



AMBUSHED: Joanne Lees said she and Peter Falconio were ambushed while travelling in the Northern Territory of Australia

sued and Falconio has allegedly been dead for more than 10 years now.

"I have written them five times asking politely if they would please clarify if they have had any contact, directly or indirectly with their son, Peter Marco Falconio."

"And they don't reply."

"I have done investigations in Italy and talked to people who know this family, and they have never ever heard that Peter Falconio was murdered in Australia."

"I mean, this is serious stuff when a person in a family is murdered."

"You don't keep this quiet to yourself: people grieve, they are upset, they talk with friends and relatives. I

have talked with neighbours of these people in Italy and they have no idea. You start adding all this up and you start to think there is something really weird here. What's going on?"

"I have written to them, and they don't answer – they won't confirm, and they won't deny. They won't say he is dead and they won't say if he's alive."

Noble added: "Somebody had to be set up and sent down for this, and Bradley Murdoch has been put in jail for 28 years without parole for a crime that has no incontrovertible evidence it ever took place."

"It's shocking. If he is alive, I suspect he is possibly in Italy, others say no, and he may be in New South

Wales, and some even say he's in the UK."

"All these things are wide open and I don't say no to anything. I just want to find him."

Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan said the posters were "offensive" and accused Noble of exploiting the tragedy, adding: "It's disappointing that people are making gain out of this."

He said: "This appears to just be a cheap stunt. For the family and the people involved in the whole case it's pretty offensive."

"A trial has been held, a person has been found guilty. Sadly the problem hasn't been solved for the family involved."



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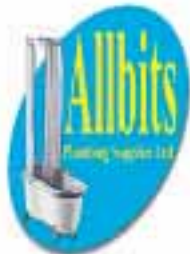


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News

LEISURE

Still time to join mass bike ride at opening of 'world-class' cycle park

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A MASS bike ride will mark the official opening of Europe's largest cycling park next week.

Thousands of people are expected to take part in the event on Sunday, May 27, at the 43-hectare Cyclopark, near Gravesend, which has a world-class cycling and running track, a championship-standard mountain bike track, and an international-level BMX track.

There is still time to register for free to take part in the mass cycle ride organised by Sky Ride, by visiting www.goskyride.com/SkyRideCity.

The ride starts at 10am, but is not the only thing to take place at the park.

Other attractions on the day include the Kent School Games cycling final, the South Region BMX competition featuring more than 400 riders, and the Gravesend Cyclopark 10K race.

Kent County Council cabinet member for environment, highways and waste Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said: "Cyclopark is a fantastic new attraction for Kent that will attract hundreds of thousands of people; from dedicated cyclists and athletes to families looking for a great day out.

"By careful development of the site we have



CIRCUIT TRAINING: Cyclopark near Gravesend

been able to include a wide range of exciting and state of the art facilities.

"In addition to the world-class track, mountain bike and BMX cycling facilities, we also have a skate park that was designed and built by well-known specialists, a football/basketball pitch area, a children's adventure playground, and an attractive café providing great refreshments.

"There are few facilities of this standard in the country. Opening before the Olympics, we expect Cyclopark will draw thousands of visitors, bringing tourists and their cash, to help regenerate this part of Kent."

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News

ENVIRONMENT

Flying the blue flag for our top quality beaches

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BUCKET and spade lovers have more sand to celebrate as a whole host of Thanet beaches continue to win accolades for their quality.

In fact the isle has just received more Blue Flag awards for its beaches than any council area in the UK.

And that's on top of the 10 just recognised by the Good Beach Guide.

Blue Flags are known across the world as a symbol of top quality when it comes to the condition of the water.

Thanet has just been given nine of them for Minnis Bay, Margate Main Sands, Ramsgate Main Sands, St Mildred's Bay, Stone Bay, West Bay, Joss Bay, Botany Bay, and Westbrook Bay.

It means they have achieved the highest quality in water, facilities, safety, environmental education, and management.

And as if that's not enough, Viking Bay in Broadstairs has



GOOD QUALITY: Botany Bay

achieved a Quality Coast Award for the sixth year in a row, which rewards English beaches that achieve the highest standards of management.

Criteria for this gong include having clean sands free of litter and dogs' mess, having good access, and facilities, and great water quality.

Cabinet member for tourism, Cllr Iris Johnston, said: "Achieving so many awards on our beaches confirms that we have the most enviable beaches in

the whole of the UK.

"We work very hard to ensure our beaches live up to the high expectations of residents and visitors and are thrilled this announcement puts us well and truly on the map.

"This announcement also coincides with the launch of a brand new lifeguard service for Thanet, ensuring safety is a top priority along our coast.

"The message is clear, if you're looking for beautiful and unique sandy beaches, then head to Thanet."

Last week, we reported Thanet had 10 beaches, Ramsgate Sands, Ramsgate Western Undercliff, Stone Bay, Botany Bay, Margate's Fulsam Rock and The Bay, Westbrook Bay, St Mildred's Bay, Westgate Bay, Minnis Bay, named in the Good Beach Guide.

The strong showing means Thanet has just over 50 per cent of those in Kent that are now recommended.

■ More news and sport at www.yourthanet.co.uk.

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News

CRIME

Conmen cheated vulnerable and elderly out of £100,000

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A PAIR of fraudsters who preyed on elderly and vulnerable people, scamming them out of more than £100,000 have been jailed for a total of nine years.

Oscar Yeboah (pictured) and Jonathan Mintah deliberately picked victims – mostly in their 80s and 90s – to lure into their elaborate scam.

Officers finally arrested them after a probe in 27 linked offences across Kent and London.

Investigating officers found victims were first targeted by phone with the caller claiming to work for either the Metropolitan Police or a fraud investigation team of a bank. The caller would tell them they had been the subject of fraud on their bank account and that a police officer would visit them.

Yeboah or Mintah would then control personal visits. They used associates in order that they were not seen themselves.

The victims would be told to place their debit card, PIN and bank statements into a sealed envelope for the person calling on the victims to take away as evidence.

Thousands of pounds would then be stolen from the accounts through the debit cards which directly benefited both Yeboah and Mintah.



During the frauds, a luxury flat in a Thames Riverside development favoured by Premier League footballers and music stars, was rented by Yeboah and used by the pair, and numerous short-term rentals of prestige vehicles were made by Yeboah.

The victims, who ranged from 61 to 98 years old, lost sums of up to £13,000. Officers found that on one occasion, £45,000 from a savings account had been targeted and moved in preparation for withdrawal.

However, banking security measures identified the potential fraud and stopped the transaction.

A proactive campaign by detectives enlisted the help of one of the victims – a 91-year-old Maidstone woman. She was so incensed that she had been tricked out of more than £7,000 she spoke out to warn others about what had happened.

Yeboah, 27, of Woodford Avenue, Ilford, pleaded guilty in November at Maidstone Crown Court to conspiracy to commit fraud through false representation between December, 2010, and March, 2011. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

Mintah, 26, of Atherton Road, Forest Gate, London pleaded guilty in April to conspiracy to commit fraud through false representation between December, 2010, and March, 2011. He was been jailed for five years.



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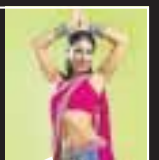
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News

CRIME

Attacker groomed young girl over web before sex assaults

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A PROLIFIC sex offender has been locked up for four years after grooming and sexually assaulting a schoolgirl.

Daniel Joslin, 30, of Station Road East, Canterbury, admitted two counts of sexual grooming, breaching a sexual prevention order, engaging in sexual activity with a child and four counts of distributing indecent images of children.

The court heard how Joslin attempted to befriend a 15-year-old girl in Larkfield on social networking sites.

This later escalated into sexual activity with the victim and ended when he emailed her more than 100 photos and films depicting images of child abuse.

Joslin had attempted to use many false names in order to evade identification, but the net closed around him when the victim's mother reported the matter to police and officers traced his computer and social networking accounts.

Investigating officer Det Con Michael Brown said: "Joslin is a prolific offender who has groomed and assaulted a vulnerable child.

"He has a history of avoiding the consequences of his actions and I am pleased we have been able to bring him to justice.

"This was a meticulous investigation carried out by the Child Exploitation Investigation Team, which was able to link Joslin to the various false identities he used to carry out his offences.

"This is an example of the determination of Kent Police to seek out those who look to harm children, regardless of the methods used by offenders to avoid capture."

In addition to the custodial sentence, Joslin was also handed an extended licence of five years, once released from prison, while a Sexual Offences Prevention Order will restrict his access to children and the internet.



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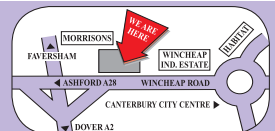
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News

WILDLIFE

Rare white lions take pride of place at big cat sanctuary

Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

THE Big Cat Sanctuary has taken great pride in welcoming two rare new arrivals.

Two white lionesses, Sophia and Joy, arrived from Weitis nature reserve in South Africa and headed for their new home in Smarden.

The five-year-old lionesses were flown into Heathrow Airport then transported to the sanctuary to start a new pride with white male Themba.

Three-year-old Themba was born at Paradise Wildlife Park in Hertfordshire before moving to Kent.

A spokesman for the sanctuary explained the lionesses were sedated then put in a crate and flown over.

He said: "Luckily the day has been uneventful; the lionesses are still in their crates and are snarling and growling which is a good sign and reassures us that they are okay."

"It has been a very successful day, the lions are happy and in good health and everyone here is very pleased."

Trustee of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation

charity that runs the sanctuary, Peter Sampson, said: "We've built a huge new enclosure especially for this breeding programme and we're hoping to have cubs before too long."

The new arrivals will be put in an enclosure adjacent to Themba to see how they get along before they are mixed together.

The lions are part of the Kruger subspecies of African lion, and are white because of a colour mutation.

There are less than 300 white lions left alive in the world.

Lynn Whitnall, WHF trustee, said: "White lions are a really beautiful species and we're very honoured to be welcoming these two new arrivals from South Africa. We've chosen these females specifically to add a new genetic stream to the UK."

The Big Cat Sanctuary is home to more than 40 big cats across 15 different species, but is not open to the public.

The sanctuary has successfully bred a variety of endangered species such as Sumatran

tigers and even the critically endangered Amur leopards.

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News

SOCIETY

Charity calls on public's help as homeless numbers rise

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A HOMELESSNESS charity is urging the public get in contact if they see someone sleeping on the streets, after figures revealed a 23 per cent rise in rough sleepers.

Homeless charity Porchlight's Don't Just Walk Past – Tell Us campaign, asks people to call or go online to help it locate street sleepers.

Porchlight staff already spend the early hours looking for people sleeping rough, but hope the extra help from the public will mean they can find even more vulnerable people.

When the public use the system they will be asked for the location and appearance of the person, allowing the charity to find and invite them to a day centre to discuss their needs.

They will then decide whether they would be best in supported accommodation or somewhere more independent.

In February the Department for Communities and Local



TOUGH TIMES: Rough sleeping has risen by some 23 per cent

Government published figures that revealed a 23 per cent rise in rough sleeping in the last year across England.

Porchlight chief executive Mike Barrett said: "The huge increase in people finding themselves in a desperate situation is very sad, but not a shock. The financial pressures affecting both the individuals themselves and the organisations that are there to help are finally coming to fruition."

Simon is now staying at one of Porchlight's supported accommodation projects after making contact with the charity's rough sleeper team.

He said: "Without Porchlight I would have ended up being stuck on the streets."

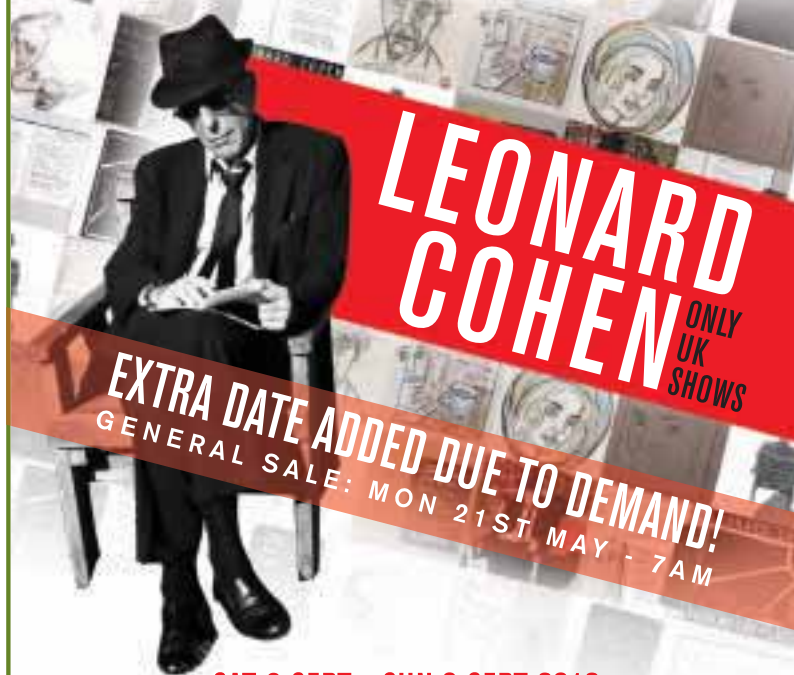
"It's that easy for someone to end up in that situation and it can all happen so fast. A lot of people think that homeless people are a certain kind of person but they're not. It really can happen to anyone."

Porchlight has supported accommodation services in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Margate, Ramsgate and Tonbridge as well as a dedicated rough sleeper team.

To report a rough sleeper call 0800 567 76 99 or visit www.porchlight.org.uk/tellus.

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News

EVENT

Classic motors to enjoy day by the seaside at car show

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT will be a petrolheads' heaven in Deal this month as the town's classic car show gets the green light.

The Classic Car and Motor Show is set to attract performance vehicles from across the South East.

It is being held on Saturday, May 26, at Walmer Green, when the area will be transformed into an arena of motoring history, with all money raised going to the RNLI Walmer Lifeboat.

Organiser of the free show, Chris West said: "We will have more than 300 classic cars, bikes and interesting vehicles on display. Major highlights will be a pair of very rare cars. The first is a Gilbern T11 prototype plus a Renault 5 GT Turbo Cabriolet, one of only two roadworthy in the UK."

Other key attractions will be a 1928 Humber 9/20, a 1908 Ford Model T, 1937 Austin 10, and a 1936 Austin 10/4 Cambridge Saloon.

Classic American cars will be well represented with Chevrolets, Cadillacs, Buicks and Mustangs.

Those with a distinct pedigree, and a place on every schoolboy's bedroom wall, are the DAX Cobra, Mercury Cougar, Aston Martin DB7, and E-Type Jaguars.

On two wheels are bikes like the Douglas, BSAs, Royal Enfields, AJSs, Ariel Arrows, Harley-Davidsons, and Vespas and Lambretta scooters.

With electric and hybrid vehicles taking headlines now, lovers of alternative transport can hark back to the days when only someone with a death wish would take a Sinclair C5 in to busy traffic, plus there is a one-off Carbioat Kerb.

For those that like a more agricultural approach there are some vintage tractors, and for a bit of fun there is Dave the Dalek.

Mr West said: "All the classic family cars will be on show, including Morris Minors, Fords, VWs, MGs and any more we can fit in before the start."

Locals clubs are well represented with confirmations from Deal & District Motorcycle Club, Real Deal Scooter Club, Kent Pre-50 Club, Thanet Classics, Triumph Six Club, East Kent Morris Minor Owners Club, Invicta Land Rover Club, Midget & Sprite Club, White Cliffs MG Owners Club, Kent Classic & Sports Club, Folkestone Auto Club, Ramsgate Old Motors & Motorcycle Club, and the Kent Timewarp Club.

There will also be live entertainment plus a retro market, children's entertainers, real ale bar and much more. For more information, contact Chris West at dealcarshow@gmail.com or phone 07841 598076.



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News

ENVIRONMENT

Hosepipe ban will continue despite wettest-ever April

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

DESPITE the wettest April since records began, and Bewl Water rising to 74 per cent full, the hosepipe ban remains in place for the long term.

After the recent downpours some counties have had their drought status lifted, but the South East remains too dry and the ban, introduced by five Kent water companies, remains in place.

The hosepipe ban was put in place on April 5, to restrict water use after two years of low winter rainfall.

A spokesman for Southern Water said: "Our resources are still recovering from two years of prolonged dry weather and we still need more rain to replenish the underground stocks."

"The restrictions are about long-term planning and we need to consider the possibility of, and prepare for, a third dry winter which could lead to restrictions next summer."

Southern Water's Bewl Wa-

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



ON THE RISE: Bewl Water

ter in Lamberhurst has seen levels rise by 30 per cent since February, while South East Water's Ardingly reservoir in West Sussex is now 86 per cent full.

A South East Water spokesman said: "The temporary use ban will remain in place until we are confident water resources have returned to levels that ensure we have enough water to meet demands this summer and in 2013."

"The recent rainfall has

shown some very early signs of recovery in the underground chalk aquifers, but we have yet to see any such signs in our deeper sandstone aquifers."

The Environment Agency's drought update shows the wettest April on record and continuing rainfall in May has significantly increased river and reservoir levels, allowing the drought status to be removed from South West England, the Midlands, and parts of Yorkshire. But, unlike Kent, these counties didn't have any water restrictions in place.

Recently Kent suppliers, Southern Water, South East Water and Veolia Water South-east, gave Kent councils an update on the current status of water resources and discussed the effect of the recent rainfall.

There are no plans for another meeting, but the companies say they will continue to work closely with the councils.

Both Southern Water and South East Water say they have no plans to put restrictions on commercial customers at present.

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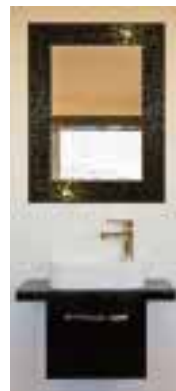
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HERITAGE

Bronze Age experts get that sinking feeling as new boat takes on water

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE maiden voyage of a replica half-sized Bronze Age boat had to be abandoned when it started to take on water.

The vessel, which is called Boat 1550 BC, was lowered into Dover Harbour for its first voyage, but had to be hastily pulled back to shore when the sea seeped into its hull.

The boat is half the size of an original Bronze Age boat which was unearthed in Dover in 1992, and had been constructed using methods as close as possible to those employed by ancient shipwrights.

Canterbury Christ Church University helped to co-ordinate the project which saw carpenters and historians build the craft in the grounds of Dover Museum – where the original is housed.

A university spokeswoman said: "The boat was lowered into the water via a crane in a hammock-style harness. But as soon as it touched the

water it was obvious things were not going to plan. Water started to get in through the seams of the vessel and it was pulled back out.

"Because the team were behind schedule they did not have time to test the boat – the idea was originally to submerge it in water so the wood expanded, but there wasn't time.

"Everyone was disappointed, but they will take the lesson away and try again."

No-one was in the boat during its launch.

A team of specialist archaeologists spent more than three months building the vessel.

Boat 1550 BC will form the centrepiece of an exhibition which

opens in Boulogne, France, on Saturday, June 30.

In December the boat moves to Belgium and returns to Dover in July, 2013.

The original 3,500-year-old boat was originally excavated by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust near to the museum in 1992, after it was discovered during excavation work.

■ See more news at www.yourdover.co.uk.



Pictures: CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



'WATER' WAY TO GO:
The replica Bronze Age boat began to take on water as soon as it was lowered into the sea at Dover Harbour



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KENT REMEMBERED



KEEPING UP APPEARANCES: King Henry II spent a small fortune in the 1180s maintaining Dover Castle

Castle stages Henry II's fractious family reunion

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

TODAY it is one of the UK's most popular tourist attractions, towering above Dover and overlooking the English Channel.

But the impressive stone fortress of Dover Castle owes its impressive bulk to one of England's most famous kings.

Henry II is best known for his role in the death of Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket, but he was also the founder of an empire and was often found battling his own family.

The fiery monarch spent at least £6,440 throughout the 1180s – the equivalent of £3.5 million – more than a quarter of his average annual income, building and furnishing the impressive keep to show off his power to visiting royalty.

But now the simmering tensions which lay behind the throne are coming back to life in a series of re-enactments.

Today, English Heritage has recreated parts of Dover Castle as it would have looked in the days when Henry held there – and throughout the summer actors and actresses are taking on the roles of members of his household.

Henry himself is in residence with his ward – and possible lover – Princess Alys, sister of King Philip of France, along with Prince John, later to be one of England's least highly thought of monarchs.

And visiting is his wife Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine – who has just been released from impris-



onment for supporting her sons in a rebellion against the King.

Visitors to the castle are greeted by the beautiful Alys who had been betrothed to Henry's son Richard the Lionheart since the age of two. In her 20s she is unmarried – and in fact never marries Richard.

Eleanor makes a grand entrance to the castle and before long is in colourful argument with her royal husband while trying to make the best of her visit and find out exactly what the King is planning for her. Meanwhile John is skulking and scheming in the background.

A spokeswoman for English Heritage said: "Although the recreation can never be 100 per cent accurate it shows the backbiting and struggles within the family.

"They really did all want power and they all wanted the throne. The cast will be recreating scenarios which were a part of the royal household's intrigues and bringing history to life."

The personalities of this warring family are complex.

Chroniclers at the time describe Henry II as not handsome, but larger than most men, stocky and powerfully built. His personality was overpowering as was his anger.

He loved hunting and was a good military commander, forging the Angevin Empire in England and France.

But he was also able to speak several languages and liked to read and take part in scholarly debates. His knights also found him very approachable and he is said never to have forgotten a face once introduced.

Meanwhile Eleanor, 11 years older than her husband, had formally been married to King Louis VII of France, who annulled the marriage because of family ties between husband and wife.

Strong willed and impetuous, Eleanor was also alleged to have had an affair with Henry's father, Geoffrey of Anjou.

Eleanor seems to have regarded her first duty as to her sons, who she supported when they rebelled against him.

Allied to Philip of France, Richard's forces ambushed Henry after a peace conference and the King seems to have finally broken and become delirious when he discovered John had joined the rebellion.

Henry died at the Chateau Chinon on July 6, 1189, and lies entombed in Fontevraud Abbey, near Chinon in the Anjou Region of France.

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OPINION

Police privatisation a real threat

Ian Pointon, Kent Police Federation chairman, issues a warning against a cuts programme which could lead to privatisation of some police roles

WHENEVER I talk about police privatisation and the inherent threat to policing by consent, I am often met with a mixture of shock, horror and disbelief.

Such reactions are hardly surprising as there is a total absence of public debate about privatisation.

There should be, but it is happening in an opaque, piecemeal way; unless you are 'in the know' it is difficult to assemble the pieces.

Policing is being subjected to 20 per cent budget cuts that will result in 500 fewer police officers and 1,000 fewer police staff in Kent alone; yet policing hasn't surrendered any of its responsibilities and functions.

It's business as usual – just with considerably fewer people.

This creates a service delivery gap and, in turn, an economic opportunity for the private sector to step in.

In other police forces privatisation is already happening for

HR, payroll, control rooms and custody suites. This is all done in the name of keeping police officers on the street.

That's laudable many will say, streamlining what they term the 'back office' to bolster the frontline.

Now look at what is happening in Surrey and West Midlands Police Forces where they are actively engaging with the private sector, inviting bids for police roles such as neighbourhood patrol, crime investigation and managing high-risk offenders. These aren't back office roles. By any definition they are frontline police roles.

South Yorkshire Police are intent on rebadging their PCSOs as 'local beat officers' and corraling police officers into 'task teams' to be deployed when police powers or force needs to be exercised.

They are effectively removing police officers from any ordinary contact with the public.

Now link this to Tom Winsor's recommendation for a fitness test for police officers, a flawed recommendation based on occupational health figures from the Metropolitan Police.

If you base your evidence on a doctor's surgery you will conclude the entire world is ill.

There is a clear desire for every officer to be ready for confrontation. Why? As the number of police officers reduces, the 'softer' elements of frontline policing will be left to the private sector, PCSOs or other agencies until they too are privatised. What will be left for police officers? Confrontation and enforcement.

Is privatisation happening in Kent? No, but how long before it does? How long before the cuts force the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners into the arms of the private sector?

But does all this really matter? Not only does it matter, it



6699

To gain and maintain that consent, policing has to be imbedded in our daily lives

should be of huge concern to everyone.

When Sir Robert Peel established policing he chose a specific model; he chose policing by the people for the people; he chose policing by consent; he modelled it as a civil not a military authority.

To gain and maintain that consent, policing has to be imbedded as an intrinsic part of all our daily lives and not just rolled out when force or coercion is required.

It is imperative that policing continues to be accountable to the public and not to shareholders.

On May 10, 35,000 off-duty police officers – more than 400 from Kent – marched in protest through the streets of London. They didn't march over pay and pensions. They marched to protest against the cuts to and the privatisation of policing.

They marched to preserve policing by consent.

KOS COMMENT

Is privatisation the future for our force?

IT'S doubtful anyone would want to be standing in the shoes of Kent Police's management right now.

With massive budget cuts, but no let up on pressure to retain policing as we know it, it's an unenviable task.

That's why the force should be applauded for managing, so far, to steer clear of any form of privatisation.

But it's quite right Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon should address what seems to be the inevitable.

Other forces are already outsourcing services and it's likely our own will have to consider it at some point. Plans have already been unveiled to shut police stations, so it's hard to see how privatisation will not cross the new police commissioner's mind at some point.

Keep it clean for 2012

WE LIVE in a beautiful county and yet some seem intent on wrecking it through sheer laziness. How hard is it really to put rubbish in the bin?

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NO Estuary Airport

Boris needs to look elsewhere

THE estuary airport would involve the ripping up of a nature area. Another area eaten up by human stupidity and wasting billions of pounds.

How Boris Johnson got back in as London Mayor, even if you are a staunch Conservative, is amazing.

Manston has been there for years, with long runways ideal for development.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

WE WERE delighted to read that you are joining the fight against the proposed airport.

So much has already been written it is almost impossible to find something new, beyond the fact it cannot be allowed to go ahead.

We have emailed Boris many, many times, as have

our friends. We were particularly disgusted to see that schoolchildren are being told to write in favour of it.

In the 20 years living in our house we have seen our immediate area destroyed, every blade of grass built on.

How many trees have been cut down at the Black Lion for a few weeks of Olympics?

Kent is overpopulated. If the population continues to rise at such an impossible rate, surely it is more important to secure quality of life.

Anita and Malcolm White, Gillingham

I DEFINITELY support the campaign to STOP the estuary airport.

Diana Woodward, Tunbridge Wells.

WITH so many under-used airports in the South East, especially Manston, we do not need a new hub airport for London with all the disruption to thousands of Kent residents' lives and homes.

We do not have the infrastructure to cope with it.

Please can someone in authority tell Boris Johnson he is the elected Mayor of London and not the Mayor of South East England and certainly not the Prime Minister.

What right has he to interfere with Kent without us having a vote for his office?

After all, London of old has already stolen parts of Kent so maybe he plans to build his empire by annexing the rest of the county.

P Hughes, Broadstairs

I WOULD like to support your campaign opposing plans to build an airport in the Thames Estuary.

The noise that people and our wildlife will be exposed to, both during the development of any airport and then from incoming and outgoing flights will be devastating.

Noise complaints are a huge problem for any airport. I notice that words like ecological damage and quality

of life are mentioned, but noise is not. The impact of noise should not be underestimated.

You may be interested to know that Boris Johnson was shortlisted for my Noise Tzar Blue Mu Award, announced on International Noise Awareness Day, April 25.

He was not chosen as my final winner, but this is because I felt the idea of the Thames Estuary airport was something unlikely to be a reality.

Now, after reading your paper and finding out that following his re-election Boris has made a direct plea to David Cameron to consider his proposal. There is real danger this could come to fruition.

This would be a disaster and therefore I would like to join your fight to oppose this plan.

Val Weedon MBE, by email

WHILE I agree that Boris's plan for an estuarine airport is bonkers, the resistance to using Manston is criminal.

Longest runway in Europe with all the equipment and

already one of the largest air cargo airports in the UK.

The high-speed train goes past it and a Manston Parkway station is on the drawing board which would put London just over an hour away.

It is a no-brainer but you, the local nimbys who moved near Manston and then start complaining, Boris and Government have a problem with Manston which I have yet to get to the bottom of.

Lord Adonis went silent for 45 seconds when asked in front of an audience at Kent University why not use Manston and categorically refused to answer the question put again and again by Sir Robert Worcester.

Ian R Swingland OBE, by email

...but maybe he's not wrong

I WANT to tell you how annoyed I was when I read

your article deriding the proposed estuary airport.

Of course I respect your views on this matter, but why cannot you respect mine?

No public debate has yet been had and you have no right to assume you are blessed with divine wisdom.

Since HM Dockyard Chatham closed in 1984, the Medway Towns have never recovered.

Chatham is now an absolute sink, full of undesirables.

Just stand at the junction of Military Road and the High Street for a few moments during business hours and you will see exactly what I mean.

Without even changing the direction of your glance you will see every race, colour and creed passing by, together with convoys of teenage females, either pregnant, or pushing infants in buggies.

The proposed estuary airport means proper regeneration, modernisation, and prosperity. Property prices will rise as will employment opportunities. I say three cheers for Sir Norman Foster.

RJ Church, via email

I CANNOT support the campaign to stop an airport being built in the estuary.

I am a wildlife photographer and a great supporter of Kent having been the Kentish Fare and Produced in Kent manager.

But the airport is required and this is a perfect site.

I do not believe it is the wildlife lovers who are supporting this. If they are they know very little on how adjustable and adaptable wildlife is particularly birds.

I think it is the posh folk who do not want their silence and space spoilt and are using nature as a reason.

Take a close look at Nairobi National Park which is right on the airport and see how the wildlife, big and small have adapted to this.

Secondly, look at the Nasa site in Florida. This launch site is on a national park which has outstanding birdlife.

Now let's look at the biggest advantage to the population living in Medway. Dare I say that Medway is becoming a tip and that it offers no future for the next generation.

Building an airport will give job opportunities to the unemployed, it will bring financial resources and income to these towns. Based on this I cannot accept the proposal to stop the airport.

Rob Weaver, via email

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Which way to turn now over car lease problem?

Q THIS is probably an unusual question. I am self-employed, with my own small business, and I lease a car from a company that has gone into administration. Does this mean my lease automatically ends? Could the car simply be repossessed? I should emphasise my own business is not in any trouble, and payments for the car are bang up-to-date.

A WHEN a business goes into administration it is not quite as bad as if it goes into receivership or liquidation. The administrators will try to keep it going while they look for a buyer who will take over some or all of the company and its clients. If a new owner is found, your lease will continue and nothing will change. But if nobody comes forward to take over the business, then the leasing company's assets will have to be turned into cash for the benefit of the company's creditors – and those assets will include your car. The administrators should keep you informed, and if the worst comes to the worst, they should simply ask you to arrange the return of the car. It is highly unlikely that anyone will simply turn up one day and demand the keys without warning, so do keep up whatever payments are due under your leasing contract.

Q I AM writing on behalf of my brother-in-law, who has been made redundant. He has been told he can start to draw his occupational pension now, or he can wait until he is 65. His wife works, so they could afford to delay his pension if that is best. What do you recommend?

A THE paperwork you sent me shows that your brother-in-law is in a final salary pension scheme. The normal retirement age is 65, but he is 60 now and could draw his pension immediately. However, if he draws the pension now, it will be reduced because the pension fund will be paying for five years longer than planned. On the other hand, if he waits then his pension entitlement should rise to keep pace with inflation over the next five years. Unless men in his family tend not to live to a good old age, he will do better to wait for his pension as long as he and his wife can afford to do so.

Q CAN you please explain the legal rights of grown-up stepchildren when their stepfather dies? Are they entitled to inherit anything, even if there is no will?

A IF THE stepfather leaves a will, then the stepchildren are just as entitled to a bequest as any other beneficiary. But when someone

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



dies intestate – without a will – the law lays down who gets what, and stepchildren receive nothing. They have no automatic rights unless the deceased parent actually adopted them, in which case they are treated the same as the parent's other children.

Q FOUR years ago we received a letter from our life assurance company warning us that our endowment mortgage policy was likely to fall short of its target. We complained to the Financial Ombudsman that we had expected the policy to pay enough to cover our mortgage, but he rejected the complaint as we had signed something years ago that said that policy projections were an estimate and not a guarantee. Now the policy has matured and we are more than £20,000 short of the sum needed to repay our mortgage, so can we ask the ombudsman to reopen the case as we have been proved right?

A THE ombudsman will not reconsider the original verdict, but this does not stop you bringing a civil court action if you think the life company misled you. However, I admit I am puzzled. You say you have been proved right, but all that has happened is the life company's forecast of a shortfall has turned out to be correct. The key point is whether or not you accepted this was a risk, and if there is evidence you agreed the payout was not guaranteed, then I suspect any court would agree with the ombudsman's decision.

Q HAS the Government withdrawn its safety guarantee from Northern Rock savers? If so, would we be well advised to move our money out?

A THE guarantee began when the government rescued Northern Rock in 2007, but it ended in 2010, except for fixed-term accounts that were already in force. Treat it now like any other bank or building society, covered by the industry-wide safety net for up to £85,000 of savings

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Energy firm fuels fears of another hike in prices

By **Adam Aiken**

MyMoney 24 editor

THERE are fears householders will be hit by further rises in the cost of gas and electricity after one of the country's biggest suppliers said its costs were continuing to mount.

Centrica, which owns British Gas, recently said the trend for energy costs "remained upwards", and it said wholesale gas prices for next winter were up 15pc.

The company – one of the 'big six' suppliers – said this and other costs would add £50 to the cost of supplying the average household this year.

The past couple of months have seen price cuts across the industry. But all the major suppliers cut either their gas tariffs or their electricity tariffs – not both.

And although those cuts helped ease the pressure on hard-pressed consumers, they failed to negate earlier price rises.

British Gas, for example, had put up its gas bills by 18pc in August and electricity by 16pc.

Any suggestion that there are further hikes on the horizon will alarm the company's 16 million domestic customers, as well as those of rival suppliers.

"The prospect of further rises in fuel bills will be a huge worry for many people who are already struggling to cope with last year's increases," said Gillian Guy, chief executive at Citizens Advice.

"Many household budgets are at breaking point and we urge British Gas to think about its customers and the extra pressure any rise will put on their finances.

"Energy companies need to keep prices as low as possible to avoid more people being pushed into fuel poverty or debt."

Audrey Gallacher, director of energy at Consumer Focus, said: "Consumers will need clear evidence that price rises are warranted if they are to stomach



BURNING ISSUE: Centrica, which owns British Gas, said energy costs will rise

further increases to their bills.

"People simply don't know whether what they are asked to pay is fair. The perception is that suppliers are quick to pass on high price rises and slow to pass on small price cuts.

"Much greater transparency on costs, pricing and profits is needed for customers to know whether they're getting a fair deal.

"Wholesale prices go up and down, but customers need to know this is accurately reflected in their bills.

"With additional costs also set to be added to our bills, to make our energy supply greener and more secure, it is essential that help is put in place for those who need it.

"We believe extra revenue the Government receives from carbon taxes should be used to help the millions of people who are being hit by rising costs."

Tom Lyon, at Uswitch.com, said: "This is deeply worrying as consumers are still struggling to come to terms with the average £224 increase in bills from the end of 2010,

and they enjoyed only a £41 reduction at the beginning of this year.

"Any further increases will see even more people seriously struggling to afford their bills.

"We would urge all suppliers to hold fire for as long as possible and to ensure that if they do move, it is only in response to a sustained upward trend. It's also important that they recognise the impact it will have on their customers.

"For consumers, it's clear that suppliers are warning of trouble ahead.

"I would urge them to prepare for the worst and to ensure that they are on a competitively-priced energy plan and to make their homes as energy-efficient as possible by taking up one of the many subsidised insulation offers available on the market."

Energy suppliers themselves have pots of money to spend on helping with energy-efficiency.

Mr Lyon said: "They are moving towards a deadline to have spent it, which means that many households could be in line to benefit."

Taxman giveth with one hand and taketh away with the other as millions face PAYE changes

UP TO 3.5 million people are set to receive tax refunds from this week, but as many as 1.6 million face bills for underpaid tax from HM Revenue and Customs.

Those who are due rebates will get average windfalls of £379, while the typical shortfall for those who have not paid enough is £537, under Pay As You Earn (PAYE) adjustments for the 2011-12 tax year.

The bills and refunds, which are a normal part of the PAYE process, are being handed out two months earlier than last year, meaning people will get their money back more quickly as well as knowing exactly what they owe, HMRC said.

Under PAYE, a tax code is allocated to each taxpayer to ensure the right amount of tax is deducted at source, but people can end up

paying too much or too little when their circumstances change and HMRC is not told.

About 85pc of people generally pay the correct amount of tax during the year, but end-of-year adjustments are made for the 15pc who do not.

This is usually because they may have moved jobs or had gaps between periods of work, for example.

CONTACT US...



If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.

You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Labour call for investigation into Regional Growth Fund 'shambles'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE fund which is set to inject £35 million into businesses in east Kent has been slammed in an official report.

Labour has called for a Commons committee to investigate the running of the £2.4 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) after criticism by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Last week Business Week reported how the county's business community had welcomed the cash input as a boost for an area hit by the withdrawal of drugs manufacturer Pfizer.

Expansion East Kent has promised to create 5,000 new jobs across Canterbury, Shepway, Dover and Thanet, as well as invest £5 million into transport infrastructure.

But the body providing the cash is now under severe criticism.

The NAO report says the fund, introduced 15 months ago, is likely to create just 41,000 jobs across the UK – rather than the 328,000 the Government claimed.

It further says those jobs will come at a cost to the taxpayer of £33,000 – an increase of £5,000 per job over employment opportunities created by the previous Regional Development Agencies.

And in some cases the NAO said it had cost as much as £200,000 for a single job to be created.



ATTACKING: Shadow skills minister Gordon Marsden

Labour now says the Public Accounts Committee, headed by Margaret Hodge, should launch an investigation.

Leading the call is shadow skills minister

Gordon Marsden, who last year was keynote speaker at Business Week Live – organized by Archant KOS Media.

"The report underlines our criticism that the RGF has been shambolic, has been improvised in nature, and is a failure in administration," he said.

The report states: "The fund has not optimized value for money because a significant proportion of the £1.4bn (the sum already given out as £1bn is still to be spent) was allocated to projects that offered relatively few jobs for the money invested."

The report further claims: "There was scope to have generated more jobs relative to the amount of grant awarded" and applying tighter controls on allocation "could have created thousands more jobs from the same resources".

"There has been very little transparency over the bid selection process and we have been stonewalled in our enquiries. That is not good enough," said Mr Marsden.

"We also want to see some regional input into the selection process. This is a fund for the regions, but is being micro-managed by Whitehall."

Business secretary Vince Cable said: "We have already put in place some of the NAO's recommendations, such as making more administrative resources available, which means projects are being processed even faster."

LONDON 2012

Olympic Torch bearer sums up his feelings

ACCOUNTANCY company Reeves says that employee Phil Reynolds will be running as a Torchbearer in the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

Reynolds will be running in Westgate-on-Sea on Thursday July 19.

He said: "I'm very honoured to have been selected for this opportunity and have had a great response from friends, family and clients.

"To be honest, the whole experience has still not dawned on me yet. I don't think it will hit me until you start to see pictures of the Torch going round the country".

Clive Stevens, managing partner at Reeves which has offices in Canterbury and Chatham, said: "I was delighted that Phil was chosen. He deserves this chance in recognition of all his community and charitable efforts, especially in raising money for Demelza when he was one of the Reeves skydivers".

He was nominated through Lloyds TSB, Presenting Partner of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

A Lloyds spokesman added: "We are delighted that Phil has been confirmed as a Lloyds TSB Olympic Torchbearer. We are proud to be bringing the excitement of the Olympic Torch Relay and are looking forward to seeing each and every one of our Torchbearers representing the work they do in their local community."

CONFERENCE

Dragon's Den star's free words of business wisdom as B2B meeting

THERE are not many occasions when an audience can come along for free and hear from one of the country's most successful businessmen.

Richard Farleigh, the former entrepreneur from BBC's Dragon's Den, is the keynote speaker at Kent Invicta Chamber's B2B conference at Ashford International Hotel on July 3.

Since the mid-1990s, he has been involved in backing more early-stage companies than anyone else in the UK.

His philosophy has been described as: "When Farleigh invests in a firm, he checks the technology, the competition, customer endorsements and management teams, because there is more technology around than there is good management."

When Farleigh started his career in an investment bank he did not believe he could out-perform the markets.

As a former economist and

chess player, it seemed to him to be just gambling.

However, he began to believe market prices were predictable and within a few years his trading desk dealt in hundreds of millions of dollars.

He developed a repeatable methodology based on observation and reasoning and the rest as they say is history.

Aged 34, he had made more than enough money to retire.

Chamber chief executive Jo James said: "If you are thinking of starting up a business, if you are running a successful business, or if you are struggling to stay afloat – not unlikely in today's economic climate – there is always something to be gained from listening to somebody like Richard.

"He is a prime example of an entrepreneur who can rise to the taunt of 'put your money where your mouth is'; you can be sure that what he says is valuable."

RENEWABLES

Special air service for wind farm employees

ONE of the major companies involved in the construction of London Array, the world's largest offshore wind farm located off the Thanet coast, has commissioned a weekly scheduled service operating from Manston Airport for some of its workers.

The charter operated by JoinJet, part of Sun-Air of Scandinavia, a subsidiary of British Airways, is operating on behalf of Siemens and will fly senior engineers from Manston to Billund in Denmark. The journey, aboard a 32-seat Dornier 328 will take approximately 90 minutes.

Chris Randle, project manager offshore wind at Siemens, said: "Everybody involved in the London Array project is working to very tight deadlines to bring phase 1 of this exciting project online and deliver renewable energy for 470,000 households, which is two-thirds of all the homes in Kent and Medway.

"The air service will make it possible to move essential staff quickly and efficiently between the construction site and our offices in Denmark. It will now make it possible for our staff to be at home in Denmark within two hours of coming ashore at Ramsgate."

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of Manston Airport, which is currently up for sale, said: "We are delighted to play our part in supporting the growth of the renewable sector in Kent and in particular the London Array wind farm."

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Outlet fashions big rise in Euro shoppers looking to buy British

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESS from across the English Channel is providing a major boost for by McArthurGlen Ashford's Designer Outlet.

Top designer UK heritage collections are proving an attraction for shoppers from the Continent and the outlet has embarked on a large-scale advertising campaign in Dover.

Latest figures show the number of shoppers from abroad is up 52 per cent on last year at McArthurGlen, with France and Germany best represented.

Visitors from Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium are also making an increasing number of visits to the outlet, using the Eurostar which stops at Ashford International Station.

British attire from brands including Ted Baker, Kurt Geiger and Jaeger are among the most popular purchases.

David Maddison, centre manager said: "Following the success of last year's advertising campaign, which was viewed by more than 12 million tourists, the centre has seen a gradual rise in the number of overseas shoppers."

"In 2011, tourists alone represented 15 per cent of total shopper numbers and 20 per cent of spend. Evidence suggests it is the strong British heritage brands such as Henri Lloyd, Jaeger and Phase Eight attracting visitors, as they seek out quintessentially British style at value for money prices."

This month the outlet centre staged a fashion show on the White Cliffs of Dover to further publicise its brands.

Style consultant Deborah Eastlake said: "We styled the shoot to emulate the look overseas shoppers are seeking when they come to the centre. Many of them are in search of the distinctive British style associated with modern fashion icons such as Kate Middleton, Emma Watson and Ed Westwick."

"They're keen to emulate a look that's preppy and on-trend – products that will add an element of je ne sais quoi to their existing wardrobe."



HIGH FASHION: Ashford's McArthurGlen Designer Outlet staged a fashion show on top of the White Cliffs of Dover

SECURITY

Director's role in safe hands

SECURITY consultants The Inkerman Group has announced that Michael Allen, MBE has been appointed to its board of directors as an executive director. This comes as the company continues on a period of significant growth and business consolidation.

Having worked for the Ashford-based business for the last three years, he has already brought significant operational and management experience, particularly with regard to the company's challenge of global expansion.

His team delivers the company's key services such as emergency evacuations, travel safe, tracking, 24/7 support and response to internationally-based clients and operationally deployed teams throughout the world, currently including the Middle East region, specialist event security, close protection, CCTV monitoring and specialist guarding services.

In 2002, Mr Allen was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his outstanding commitment and contribution to explosive ordnance disposal in the military division.

Mr Allen said: "I am extremely pleased to be invited to join the board at this time; it is an exciting opportunity, in particularly challenging times."

"The Inkerman Group has great potential – it continues to grow and develop its client base and specialist products and services globally. This is a particularly important growth time for the business as the company continues to secure new contracts."

Kent hit as well-known high street brands announce shop closures

FASHION chain French Connection has put up the 'For Sale' sign outside 14 of its shops in large shopping centres across the UK – including its Bluewater outlet.

Poor performance in the second half of 2011 is one of the reasons for the move.

The brand, once famous for its FCUK branded T-shirts, has been struggling in recent years with City analysts and fashion gurus saying it has lost its way.

French Connection has hired property agent Ashley Phillips Lahaise to sell the leases. It will only close shops if another retailer takes over the leases.

The up-market high street fashion house, which has 71 shops in the UK and Ireland and 46 concessions in the UK

and Europe, has fared better in emerging markets and plans 12 shops in China and 15 in India.

Its chief executive and chairman, Stephen Marks, is conducting a review of the business following the "most difficult winter season I have seen in all the years I have been in business".

Its UK and European retail business made a loss of £8.2 million in the year to January 31, while profits plunged 32 per cent to £5m. As part of the review, it sold off its Nicole Farhi business last year.

French Connection shares, which hit 487p in 2004, closed down 0.25p to 42.75p.

And in a further blow for high street retailers cards and

gifts retailer Clinton Cards, which has branches across the county, says it expects to enter administration.

The retailer is set to become the latest casualty on the high street after its biggest supplier American Greetings bought up loans from its banks and promptly called them in.

Clinton Cards said in a statement announcing the suspension of trading in its shares, it had been in breach of some conditions attached to £35m of loans and that it was not in a position to repay them.

The group said it had been informed by Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland, which had given it temporary waivers over the breaches, had sold the loans.

LEGAL

Lynn gives up newspaper career to take on the law

KENT-based Buss Murton Law LLP has appointed solicitor Angharad Lynn to the family team. She will divide her time between the firm's offices in Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook and Dartford.

Prior to her appointment Lynn spent more than two years at Cripps Harries Hall in Tunbridge Wells and has also spent several years working on national newspapers.

She said: "After a number of years working for newspapers such as the Daily Express and the Mail on Sunday, I decided to combine starting a family with retraining for a career in the law. After a part-time conversion course and a two and a half year training contract I am glad to have made the leap into law."

Alan Williams, managing partner, said: "We are delighted that Angharad has joined the team. "There are likely to be some interesting developments for family law solicitors over the coming year as the Government pushes through legislation to allow gay marriage which will be watched with interest."

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Training, courses and careers

University wins gold for creativity in Olympics role

A CULTURAL Olympiad scheme led by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has won a prestigious London 2012 award.

The Creative Campus Initiative (CCI) saw off more than 230 entries to pick up the gold medal for best creative cultural project at the prestigious Podium Awards in London.

The one-off event recognised the role colleges and universities have played in delivering this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games. UCA, which has campuses in Rochester, Maidstone, and Canterbury, has led the CCI, a consortium of 11 universities in the South East, since 2009.

It became the country's largest higher education programme in support of the Cultural Olympiad and has seen 15 of its projects recognised with official London 2012 Inspire marks. It has created more than 100 events, ranging from exhibitions, performances and school visits to large-scale sports art, such as the Big Swim, where participants swam in a cloud of Olympic colours.

Professor Seymour Roworth-Stokes, UCA Pro vice-chancellor and chair of the CCI steering group, said: "We set out four years ago with a very simple aim: to exploit the cultural assets and resources of universities in the South East in support of the Cultural Olympiad. Since then, we have reached more than half a million people by bringing sport and art together as a creative response to the Olympic and Paralympic values. Of course, legacy is about people and this award will help ensure we inspire the next generation of artist, designers and creative practitioners."

Computer skills classes help to get adults online

CUSTOMERS of one of the county's biggest housing associations have had the chance to hone their IT skills thanks to some free training sessions.

The lessons were held by mhs Homes as part of Adult Learners' Week, which ran from May 12-18, from the association's express office in High Street, Chatham.

As part of the short sessions, customers were shown how to use email and search engine Google. They were also shown how to create a 'my mhs homes' account, which will allow them to check their rent account, log property repairs and leave comments.

Among those taking part was 68-year-old Iris Witt, from Wayfield, who wanted to use the service from her new mobile phone.

She said: "I've never used a computer before, but I've got a new phone with internet and I thought this would be a good time to learn all about it. It's actually really easy, I'm surprised at how easy it is."

Joining Iris for the short course was Tracey Poole, 41, from Hoo. She said: "It's good just to be able to use a computer and get new skills. It's so easy to use I will be able to help other people get online and show them what it's all about."

Customer service team leader at mhs Homes Emma Dumbrell said: "It is a very simple way to learn how to use a computer, but has enormous benefits.

"It means our customers can contact us at a time that suits them and it gives them skills they can use in other areas."

Football League side is top of the class after signing college terms

IN the cut-throat world of professional football, careers can be over faster than a Messi run or a Drogba dive.

And for many, seeing their dream disappear comes with the added agony of not having the qualifications to fall back on to forge themselves a successful living.

However, a new initiative by North West Kent College and League Two side Gillingham could help ease that problem.

The two have put pen to paper for a new scheme aimed at developing elite footballers along with studying academic qualifications.

North West Kent College, which has sites in both Dartford and Gravesend, has more than eight years' experience working in this field, with a great deal of success.

Gillingham welcomed the partnership and said it sees the deal as a major extension to its recruitment arm under the new Elite Player Performance Plan.

The deal comes just as the club saw first hand how the fickle nature of the sport can change careers in a heartbeat. Last week Andy Heshenthaler left as manager, while five players were also released from the club.

Academy manager Darren Hare said: "When I was approached with the opportunity, I really felt it was something we needed to do.

"Our recruitment of players extends all over Kent, but it will enhance our programme to be able to have a base in north Kent, on the outskirts of London, to give us a chance of competing with the bigger clubs under the new EPPP regulations."

The programme will run initially both at the Dartford site as well as in Medway, and includes a mix of high quality football coaching and training along with a bespoke academic pathway.

Students will have a choice of sports-related qualifications

to study, and the teams will take part in the Conference Youth League wearing the Gills colours, and playing games at the club's training ground at Beeching's Cross, in Gillingham.

Mr Hare added: "Obviously we wanted to embrace all aspects, and to have a say in the football side of things, and the college have welcomed that involvement.

"We know the head coaches on the scheme well and we will watch the players develop with interest, and who knows, if we can get one or two to make the transition from this college academy to our own apprenticeship programme, we will be delighted.

"It also provides us with a better exit and progression strategy for our under-16 players when they are told they are not getting an apprenticeship – sometimes

you can be wrong, and this could be a great place to keep an eye on them too if they wanted to."

Chris Lydon, who is the associate director of sport and leisure at North West Kent College said: "I am delighted to be working in partnership with Gillingham.

"The education and football scheme allows learners aged 16-18 to continue their full-time education whilst developing their football talents under the guidance of Uefa coaches.

"Obviously being in partnership with a professional football club is very exciting and will allow talented young players to pursue their ambitions in football whilst still being able to study.

"I am delighted with the involvement of Gillingham and I particularly look forward to working with Darren and his team as the scheme develops."

To find out more, contact North West Kent College on 0800 074 1447.

TALENT: The deal will give players a sound education as they pursue football dream



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Schools & education

Youngsters are really cooking in National Juniorchef competition

BUDDING cooks have competed for the coveted title of National Juniorchef under the gaze of award-winning celebrity chef Gary Rhodes.

The annual event, held at Thanet College, sees hundreds of school-age entrants from across the UK whittled down to just six finalists based on the strength of their menu.

The finalists then take part in a tense cook-off at Thanet College under the watchful eye of TV chef Gary Rhodes, a

former student at the college.

This year marks the 10th event, with entrants required to produce a main course and dessert in three hours.

Mr Rhodes said the contest is a fantastic opportunity for young people to show their passion for cooking and develop important culinary skills.

"The great thing about this competition is how it's inspiring young people," he said.

"They want to cook and not only do they want to cook,

they're taking it home, they're experimenting with the dishes."

Thanet College catering student Matthew Cowell took home the 2010 prize.

"I was studying a pre-vocational catering course at the time, but wasn't serious about becoming a chef.

"My feelings changed after winning the competition, I realised just how much I'd learned and how much I enjoyed cooking. I decided it was the career for me."

Students win their fourth victory in Army Skills Challenge

MIDKENT College public services students have battled it out against their rivals to secure a fourth straight win in the annual Army Skills Challenge.

The event, at Sir John Moore Barracks in Shorncliffe, Folkestone, saw colleges and schools from Kent compete for the coveted first place position.

Tasks included an indoor and outdoor assault course, an interactive laser shootout and a timed buggy race.

MidKent College, which has campuses in Medway and Maidstone, lifted the trophy for the fourth year running after finishing the main course in just eight minutes, 23 seconds – almost a minute-and-a-half faster than runners-up Canterbury College.

Programme area leader Katriona Topps said this was testimony to the value of the weekly two-hour fitness sessions undertaken as part of the students' public services course.

She added: "The challenge is an excellent event offering students an insight into army life and keeping those who have already applied for the service motivated until they join.

"It allows for competition between colleges



CONTEST: Colleges and schools competed against each other in the annual army challenge

and schools, and showcases the advantages of taking a public services course in advance of a related career. We believe the calibre of students from MidKent College is high and that events such as this help to equip them with the abilities to meet the needs of future employers."

MidKent College's public services courses prepare students for entry into professions including the police, military and fire service.

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more details.

Entrepreneurs in the making show what they're made of in contest

WE'RE used to watching the candidates on BBC's The Apprentice being put through their paces as they battle their way through each task under the watchful eye of Lord Alan Sugar.

But for year nine pupils at Highsted Grammar School in Sittingbourne this pressure became a reality as they took part in an Apprentice-style event, competing in groups to win a bid to cater for a formal dinner.

Set up as entrepreneurs, the youngsters posed as competing catering companies; planning and designing menus, and explaining the supply, and serving of the food. They were judged on their ability to present and deliver a project on time and to budget.

The event was part of NatWest's MoneySense for Schools, a national, curriculum-based programme of interactive modules, developed by the bank with the help of

teachers to teach business and financial skills to youngsters.

Highsted Grammar School teacher Chris Muir, who organised the event, said: "It's very important that our students gain basic money management skills and have the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial and creative abilities.

"This activity was an extremely practical and fun way of doing this and brought alive what happens in real life."

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KEEP KENT WORKING

KENT CRISPS

Students snap up practical experience

PHOTOGRAPHY student Bex Littlechild has won £150 for creating the winning picture in a competition to illustrate the quality and provenance of Kent Crisps.

Producer Quex Foods, based in Birchington, teamed up with Thanet College to challenge BTEC students studying for their extended diploma in art and design to develop images and artwork that could be used in future marketing and advertising for Kent Crisps.

Bex Littlechild's stunning picture of oysters in front of a seascape at Kingsgate Bay with white cliffs was chosen as the winner. Judges also highly commended the work of three other students, China Wiseham, James Winkless and Sue Anderson.

Anthony Curwen, chairman of Quex Foods, said: "We were impressed with the imagination and technical skill of the students in highlighting the quality, provenance and Kentish roots of our crisps. Community partnerships to promote Kent are at the heart of our business, and projects like this help us to get involved."

More than 30 students from Years 1 and 2 took part. Thanet College photography and media lecturer Chris Amess said:



"This project with Kent Crisps has given our students the practical experience of working on a task in the real world, in which they had to consider the client's requirements

and meet a fixed deadline."

Made from locally-grown potatoes and hand-cooked for premium quality and texture, Kent Crisps reflect the tastes and landscapes of the



county. Flavours include a first for the crisps industry – oyster and vinegar, plus Great Taste Award winner Ashmore cheese and onion, sea salt and Biddenden cider vinegar and sea salt.

Kent Crisps are on sale at selected Waitrose stores, farm shops, cafés, delis, pubs, village shops and tourist attractions, including Turner Contemporary and Canterbury Cathedral.

Sales help to maintain Quex Park, one of Kent's historic estates and the Powell-Cotton Museum, plus other attractions.

For more details visit www.kentcrisps.com where a store locator can be found; also see Facebook Kent Crisps and follow on Twitter @KentCrisps.

PALLETWAYS

Distribution firm expands into new base

THE Palletways Group, Europe's largest distribution network for palletised freight, has expanded its operations with the opening of a new depot in Dartford.

The 19,500 sq ft depot is the latest addition to Palletways' existing facilities in Lichfield, Edinburgh, Oxford and Greenford (London) and marks a milestone in the company's future plans for growth.

The opening of the new depot will see the company collect and deliver small consignments of palletised

freight to local customers for onwards delivery across the UK, Ireland, the Benelux countries, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

The move has also resulted in the recruitment of five new staff members, bringing the total number of employees working at the depot to 14.

Andy Turner, managing director for Palletways Owned Operations, said: "The move to open a new depot in Dartford is part of a wider national and interna-

tional growth strategy.

"Over the years, we have built a very efficient delivery network and Dartford presented a number of good business opportunities, which would allow us to replicate the success we've had in other parts of the UK and mainland Europe."

Palletways, which was set up in 1994, has 300 plus depots across the group, delivering 3.5 million pallets per year throughout the UK and nearly two million pallets a year in mainland Europe.

LOCATE IN KENT

Success for planning consultants

THREE of Locate in Kent's commercial partners have been recognised as among the leading planning consultants in the county – demonstrating the county is a good place to do business.

Barton Willmore, Peter Brett Associates and DHA Planning all ranked highly in Planning Magazine's 2011 survey of chartered town planners.

Barton Willmore, which has a regional office at Ebbsfleet was also recognised as the industry's leading employer in the UK, with 134 chartered planners around the country.

Peter Brett Associates, which has offices in Ashford, was ranked joint 18th, employing 31 chartered planners, while DHA Planning from Maidstone was joint 31st with 14, all in Kent.

In another key indicator, Barton Willmore was placed fifth in the table of Highest Earning UK Planning Consultancies for the year with a fee income of £18.5million, with Peter Brett Associates 12th with earnings of £9.6m.

"It is encouraging to see our partners doing well, particularly so in the planning sector,"

said Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent.

"The fact we have three such successful firms of consultants can only be good for the Kent economy as they will naturally cause others to look favourably on the county."

"Barton Willmore and Peter Brett Associates are located in two of our key development areas and their success reinforces the messages that these are prime business locations, while DHA's inclusion is a great reflection of what Maidstone, the County Town, has to offer businesses."

AIM FIRE SERVICES

Make sure your company's fire protection is up to date

EXPERTS at Aim Fire Services are offering their valuable help in the area of fire regulations.

Unfortunately the fire-related side of the training is not a regulated industry and there are companies out there who provide tick box training, which in most cases is not suitable for the individual or the company.

Due to non-regulation we have come across several companies who's Fire Warden or Fire Awareness training is wholly inadequate for the company's needs.

We at Aim Fire Services pride ourselves on quality training delivery, with practical scenarios specific to business needs such as residential care homes, offices, factories, large commercial organisations or to tailor

any course specific to the company requirements.

Aim Fire Services is backing fire Minister Bob Neil's drive to make businesses in the South East aware of the forthcoming review and that they are aware what effects the devolution of power to local authorities and local communities will mean to the business community.

Essentially, the fire legislation affects those persons responsible for any premises in England and Wales where people live or work. The legislation covers nearly every type of building and open space except for anything on wheels, anything that flies, building sites, offshore installations, private homes and individual flats in a block or house, although

communal areas will be affected.

On October 1, 2006, through the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, (RRO) the responsibility for fire safety was handed to the responsible person, for instance managers, employers, self employed with premises, voluntary organisations, those responsible for buildings with public access and any contractor who has some control over any premises.

The responsible persons will have a duty to ensure the safety of everyone who uses their premises and those in the immediate vicinity who may be at risk if there is a fire. This will involve providing a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) of the site and adequate training for staff.

The RRO is the biggest reform shake up in fire service legislation for almost 30 years. Any person responsible for premises must carry out a Fire Risk Assessment (FRA).

The Fire and Rescue Service will be the enforcing body and carry out inspections and audits. Failure to comply could lead to enforcement action or even prosecution.

In a company, the responsible person – usually a manager – will have to carry out the FRA of their premises. This can be done by themselves if they are competent to do so, or by using a competent member of staff who has suitable experience, sound knowledge of this area and had the relevant training, or by employing third party consultants

such as Aim Fire Services. It is unlikely that internal company staff will have the necessary training or experience to qualify, so some companies will need to contact specialists.

Aim Fire Services can carry out your FRA, provide training for staff so companies can do their own assessment, act as a third party consultant and organise general training for Fire Wardens and Marshalls.

Aim Fire can also provide CoSHH awareness training, Manual Handling training (soon to be certified by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) and any related bespoke training required.

For details email info@aimfire.co, uk or call 0845 2025 999.

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Where: The Marriott Hotel, 1 Broadway, Bexleyheath, DA6 7JZ
When: Monday 28th May, 11am—8pm

For more information please call:
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Or visit our website:
www.chrysaliscarefostering.org

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FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT

CHRYSLIS CARE

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ESTABLISHED in 1997, Chrysalis Care is a family-run business based in south east London serving the London boroughs and Home Counties with the very best in foster care.

Founded by Lynda and Lou Boden, the family ethos runs through the veins of Chrysalis Care.

With more than 85 foster homes and 110 children currently in placement, Jo Oliver, strategic development executive at Chrysalis Care believes their standard of care

ensures a place as one of the industry leaders.

She said: "Our process of recruitment and assessment for prospective foster carers is extremely effective.

"We continually invest in learning and development programmes, a process we believe is comprehensive and ensures the best possible standard of care."

Chrysalis' availability of skilled foster carers ensures each child or sibling group is matched with the

most suitable family, who is best able to meet their needs.

Jo added: "We have a wide diversity of foster carers. We all believe in children and in their development, with the aim of providing them with the opportunity to flourish.

"If you have a sense of fun and a vibrancy for life, a spare room, time to give to a child or children or can provide a home to teenagers, a parent and child, children with disabilities or are interested in remand fostering,

we would like to hear from you."

Chrysalis Care offer a huge range of additional services, including play therapy, mentoring and an accredited educational provision and is currently recruiting foster carers to join its team.

Telephone: 0208 298 2800; Email: info@chrysaliscare.org; Website: www.chrysaliscarefostering.org or please come to the Open Day at The Marriott Hotel, Bexleyheath on Monday May 28 11am - 8pm.

SUPPORT

Stars appreciate value of fostering



SINGER and TV star Gareth Gates is supporting this year's Foster Care Fortnight, the Fostering Network's annual recruitment and awareness campaign which brings together fostering services from throughout the UK to recruit foster carers and raise the profile of fostering.

The singer has thrown his support behind this year's campaign because he feels that, as the son of a foster carer, more people need to take up the mantle of caring for children. With 8,750 more foster families needed this year the campaign is more important than ever. Foster carers from all backgrounds and experiences are needed so that children with often complex needs and a wide variety of interests can be found the placement that will give them the best opportunity in the future.

Gareth said: "When I was growing up, I was always surrounded by lots of other children.

"In addition to my three sisters, my mum and dad fostered children. Over the years around 50 boys and girls of all ages, from different backgrounds have been a part of our family. My parents wanted to give other children some of the security and love that we had.

"Many of the kids who came into our family didn't have a great start in life and I know my mum and dad made a huge difference.

"I have seen first-hand, what a difference a foster carer can make on a child's life. That's why I'm supporting the Fostering Network with this year's Foster Care Fortnight."

Robert Tapsfield, chief executive of the Fostering Network, said: "As the son of foster carers, Gareth knows the extraordinary contribution that they make to society as whole but most importantly, the individual children that they help and nurture. We are absolutely delighted that Gareth is supporting the campaign and helping us raise awareness of the need for more foster carers."

Another celebrity to throw her support behind the Fostering Network's Foster Care Fortnight campaign is Oscar nominee Samantha Morton.

The film star, who spent time in the care system as a youngster, feels passionately that no child should be without a safe and secure environment in which to grow and develop.

"As a foster child myself I would not be where I am today without the people that were kind enough to help and care for me when others were unable. Please, please consider fostering a child."



LONDON 2012

Olympic Torch recognition for carers who go extra mile



WITH just a couple of months to go until the Olympic and Paralympic Games come to London, four foster carers, a daughter of a foster carer and one young person in care have been chosen to carry the Olympic torch as it tours Britain.

More than 7,300 torch bearers have been confirmed and will be carrying the flame through hundreds of cities, towns and villages up and down the country. The torch represents peace, unity and friendship and not many personify these qualities in the same way that foster carers, their families and children in care do.

Janie Ashton, has been fostering with her husband Jeff for the last eight years. During that time they have fostered 20 children, including

many brothers and sisters.

Janie said of her selection for the relay: "It is a great honour to be chosen to carry the Olympic torch. It will carry a positive message from where it is lit in Greece to everyone who is witness to its passing.

"I was nominated for my work as a foster carer within my community.

"I am proud to have been recognised like this and I hope it shows those people who are thinking about becoming foster carers how every day can be different.

"One day it is making school lunches, the next day it's the Olympics. I feel I am carrying the torch on behalf of all foster carers. We are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job"

Janie's nomination read: "Through

teaching, fostering, charity work and being a great friend, Janie helps everyone she meets to achieve their best while giving her all."

She will carry the torch on July 24 in Richmond-Upon-Thames.

Fiona Berry, Foster Carer Association development manager at the Fostering Network, said: "Carrying the torch is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these inspirational people. It is very exciting knowing so many people involved in foster care have been chosen to take part in the torch relay. We all wish them every success."

In addition, Steve Thompson, a foster carer from Cornwall, also took part in the Olympic Village run which took place on March 31, finishing in the Olympic stadium.

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT**Career opportunities at MidKent College**

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Child Care**Ref: P0395**

Salary: £26,336 - £29,618 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week
Medway

We are looking for knowledgeable and experienced candidates to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidates will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Beauty Therapy**Ref: M0362**

Salary: £26,336 - £29,618 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Medway Campus

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Closing date: 12 noon Wednesday 30th May 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

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Simon Thompson, HR Officer, Archant Lifestyle simon.thompson@archant.co.uk





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For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.
If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 25th May 2012
Interview Date: Tuesday 12th June 2012

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**




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RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

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If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 25th May 2012
Interview Date: Wednesday 6th June 2012

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**

The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site and a 4 bed unit situated at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

THEATRE Anaesthetic/Recovery - Nurse/ODP/TSW (Margate) Full and Part time

We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced, highly motivated theatre staff who have a flexible approach to working. Hours will include evening, weekend and bank holiday working. A minimum of 3 years current experience is essential.

To discuss these opportunities please contact either:
**Dennis Sutton, Theatre Liaison Manager on 07807 829623 or
Mary Guarnieri, Matron on 01843 234555**

PART-TIME HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT (Margate) Endoscopy Unit
20 hours per week


Qualifications
Previous experience desirable but not essential as full training will be given.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact either:
**Dennis Sutton - Theatre Liaison Manager on 07807 829623 or
Linda McCafferty - Endoscopy Nurse on 07786 173796**

Closing date for applications - Friday 25th May 2012

For job description and application form please contact:
**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital,
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG**
Telephone: 01843 234556 | Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check




The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Manager
Full Time

To have overall responsibility for the management of Physiotherapy services on both sites as well as maintaining clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity. To be based at Ashford. Six or more years post graduate experience and previous management experience preferred

Physiotherapist
Full time

To manage own caseload primarily at Margate but across both sites if required. In-patient and out-patient service delivery will be required as will occasional weekend work. Bachelor Degree and 3 - 5 years post grad experience required

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Mary Guarnieri - 01843 234252

Closing date for applications Friday 25th May 2012

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
**East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG**
Telephone: 01843 234556 | Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



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(pro rata - 37 hours per week, term time only)

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 3-19 years with Severe Learning Difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 37 hpw (8am to 4pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 3.30pm on Fridays), term time only across both sites to undertake administrative/clerical duties at the school. The appointee should be prepared to commit to working to a consistently high standard in a fast paced, supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity for the right person with commitment and dedication to gain a post with progression and career development.

We are looking for somebody with:

- good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- knowledge of school office work and SIMS database desirable
- enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 1st June 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.



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The Swale Skills Centre is one of the best centres for Engineering in the country. Required for September 2012

Electrical Power Engineering Teacher/Tutor

Due to the continuing expansion of Engineering training at the Swale Skills Centre a position has arisen for an experienced tutor for teaching at Levels 2 & 3 on BTEC and City & Guilds courses. The Centre delivers a range of programmes which include Apprentice Wind Turbine Technician Courses, Apprenticeships for Manufacturing & Maintenance both mechanical and electrical. BTEC Programmes are delivered at Key Stage 4 and City & Guilds programmes are delivered at Post 16 to provide entry to employment.

The successful applicant will join a dedicated team of Engineers committed to the teaching of first class engineering in a top quality teaching and training environment.

Essential - Degree/HNC - Industrial Experience in a Power Engineering setting - Teaching Qualification - Teaching experience at Level 3 BTEC.

Desirable - Assessor/Verifier Qualification - Teaching experience at Level 4 - Knowledge of Electronics - Knowledge of Control Engineering - Knowledge of Electrical Installation - Teaching experience with City & Guilds.

Laptop provided and enhanced salary for the right candidate.

The Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB Disclosure.

Interested? Please send your CV together with letter of application to:- Mr. Alan Barham, Executive Headteacher, Sittingbourne Community College, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 4NL or email: debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk - College Personnel Officer. Tel: 01795 472449, Fax: 01795 470332

Closing Date: Monday 28th May 2012

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Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2012

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(TLR with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing date: 25th May 2012
Interviews: 30th May 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00796/FUL Cowden Horsmonden Road, Brenchley
- Amendment to application TW/00/00913 to include enlarged garden to incorporate retained wall and drainage; retained farm track to farmhouse and services/bins/largest emptying; pillars to be lowered and changed to wooden farm style gates, and removal of condition 2 to allow property to be converted and cold store to be occupied as a separate residential unit (LB)

12/00856/HOUSE 2 St Davids Bridge Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Rear conservatory (LB) (CA)

12/01338/HOUSE 27 Court Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Single storey replacement rear extension (CA)

12/01300/HOUSE Aspenshaw Chicks Lane, Goudhurst
- Replacement garage/hobbies room/garden store (PROV)

12/01058/FUL Westfield Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst
- Change of use of existing garden room/summer house building to provide small venue hosting workshops and courses (D2 use) TW/11/02431/FUL - Variation of condition 6 to extend Saturday opening times from 09:00- 13:00 to 09:00 - 16:00 (LB)

12/01256/FUL Capel Manor House Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden
- Retrospective - Vehicle access track (LB)

12/01332/FUL Pearsons Corner Willow Lane, Paddock Wood
- Minor Material Amendments of TW/11/03028/FUL - Extension of time: Demolition of existing chalet bungalow and construction of replacement dwelling (TW/08/01116 refers) changes are increase in height of dwelling, inclusion of dormer windows front and rear elevations, ramp and light well to basement (LB)

12/01313/FUL 8 Calverley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Change of use from A1 (retail) to A2 (financial and professional services) for use as a bank. Part new shop front. Two new ATM machines (CA)

12/01177/HOUSE Holly Cottage Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst
- Extension of driveway; Removal of bulk gas tank and replace with gas bottles; Screen new gas tanks with oak wooden door; Install pergola (LB)

12/01179/LBC Holly Cottage Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Extension of driveway; Removal of bulk gas tank and replace with gas bottles; Screen new gas tanks with oak wooden door; Install pergola (LB)

12/01279/LBC 1 The Walks The Green, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Repositioning of satellite dish on westward facing side of chimney to eastward facing side of chimney towards the roof (LB)

12/01296/HOUSE White Acre Tophill Farm, Speldhurst
- Installation of a conservation rooflight to south (rear) elevation (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROV) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 19 May 2012



TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995
NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1)
TO WHICH ARTICLE 6 APPLIES**

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction made under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which Article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9 am and 1.30 pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 28 February 2012 and came into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the 3 March 2012. The Direction was confirmed on 14 May 2012 and remains in force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 2 - MINOR OPERATIONS

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

Class B

The formation, laying out and construction of a means of access to a highway which is not a trunk road or a classified road, where that access is required in connection with permitted development, being development comprised within Class B of Part 2 of Schedule 2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 4 - TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

Class B

The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 0.9 hectares to the north of Ashurst Hill, Ashurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated: 19 May 2012



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PLANNING

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995
NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH
ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction made under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9 am and 1.30 pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made on 28 February 2012 and was confirmed and came into force on 14 May 2012.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 - CARAVAN SITES

Class A

The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 6 - AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A - Development on units of 5 hectares or more

- (a) Works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building; or
- (b) any excavation or engineering operations

which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit.

Class B - Development on units of less than 5 hectares

- (a) the extension or alteration of an agricultural building;
- (b) the installation of additional or replacement plant or machinery;
- (c) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a sewer, main, pipe, cable or other apparatus;
- (d) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a private way;
- (e) the provision of a hard surface;
- (f) the deposit of waste; or
- (g) the carrying out of any of the following operations in connection with fish farming, namely, repairing ponds and raceways; the installation of grading machinery, seration equipment or flow meters and any associated channel; the dredging of ponds; and the replacement of tanks and nets,

where the development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the unit.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 7 - FORESTRY BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A

The carrying out on land used for the purposes of forestry, including afforestation, of development reasonably necessary for those purposes consisting of:-

- (a) works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building;
- (b) the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways;
- (c) operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways;
- (d) other operations (not including engineering or mining operations).

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 0.9 hectares to the north of Ashurst Hill, Ashurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
 Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 19 May 2012



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND
COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/TW/0132/2012 - Proposed development at
West Kent Health Needs Education Service,
Woodview, 40 Teddington Drive, Leybourne, West
Malling, Kent, ME19 5FF

Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for an extension of existing school building to provide additional classroom, replacing stand alone structure, to be removed. Creation of new vehicular and pedestrian access, reorganisation of car parking and associated landscape works. The proposed development could affect a public right of way.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

KCC/TW/0152/2012 - Proposed development at
Tunbridge Wells South Wastewater Treatment
Works, Broom Lane, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN3 9JL

Southern Water Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for construction of two walk-in kiosks, a sludge storage tank and other minor works to support upgrades to the wastewater treatment works.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010
AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING
AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0151/2012 - Proposed development at Land
south of Rolvenden Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4DN

Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council (as the County Planning Authority) for planning permission for the erection of a new Primary School building with associated hardcourt play areas, access, parking and landscaping and re-profiling and landscaping of residual land to return to pasture. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated. The proposed development is close to the Benenden Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. It may also affect the setting of nearby Listed Buildings. The proposed development affects three public rights of way (WC325, WC326 and WC327).

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
 Head of Planning
 Applications Group
 Kent County Council
 Dated: 20 May 2012



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0372/SH# - GJB Autos North Street New Romney Kent TN28 8DW - Conservation area consent for demolition of existing garage/workshop buildings.

Y12/0338/SH - Land to rear of 29 Shornciffe Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2NB - Erection of a detached dwelling and garage.

Y12/0450/SH - 78 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3BX - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0239/SH for the change of use from offices (Class A2) to two self-contained upper floor flats, together with external alterations.

Y12/0437/SH - 2 Well House 41 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JL - Alterations to the roof to include a pitched roof to the side and the erection of a detached garage following removal of existing and erection of a retaining wall.

Y12/0345/SH# - 5 New Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9DJ - Listed building consent for internal and external works to include replacement of window to North East elevation, drying, new ensuite to first floor and exposure of historic timber frame to first floor.

Y12/0401/SH - McDonalds Restaurant West Terrace Folkestone Kent CT20 1RR - Installation of five air conditioning units to first floor flat roof. (Units associated with existing restaurant premises below).

Y12/0387/SH - The Leas Lift Lower Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1PR - Listed building consent to remove track and timber sleepers to redundant 2nd lift at Leas Cliff Lift

Y12/0307/SH - Trinity Gardens Open Space Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent - Partial crown reduction of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area comprising of the reduction of the lateral limbs on the western side to give minimum of 2 metres clearance from the adjacent building (65 Bouverie Road West).

Y12/0415/SH+ - Former Primary School Adjoining Marist Convent Seabrook Road Hythe Kent - Erection of a part four and part three storey block of 12 flats being details pursuant to outline planning permission Y08/0949/SH (details relating to appearance, landscaping and scale).

Y12/0403/SH - Courtland House 7 Trinity Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2ES - Change of use from hotel (Class C1) to residential (Class C3) and conversion into 8 self-contained flats and one self-contained maisonette, together with internal and external alterations, including replacement windows and alterations to front and rear dormer windows.

Y12/0458/SH* - Land Adjoining 2 Peene House Cottages Newington Road Peene Kent - Change of use of agricultural land to residential and erection of a detached two storey dwelling with upper floor set within roof space with garage and access driveway, following demolition of existing agricultural barn building (re-submission of planning application Y10/1192/SH).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
 Shepway District Council

Maidstone Borough Council

INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY
STRATEGIC LOCATIONS - CALL FOR POTENTIAL
PARK AND RIDE DEVELOPMENT SITES

Following consultation on the Maidstone Borough Council Core Strategy in September and October 2011, the council is seeking information and expressions of interest to explore the potential for new 'park & ride' sites near Linton crossroads (A229/B2163) and in the vicinity of Junction 7 of the M20 motorway.

Site information must be submitted on the call for

'park and ride' sites pro-forma, which is available on the council web page at www.maidstone.gov.uk/ldf or in hard copy on request.

This information should be submitted, **preferably by email**, by **17:00 on Friday 22 June 2012**.

By email: ldf@maidstone.gov.uk

By post: Jonathan Morris, Principal Transport Planning Officer, Spatial Policy, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ.

This exercise allows you to propose potential development sites. The council will assess sites on an equal basis, but there is no commitment by the council that your site(s) will be allocated for development.



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PLANNING

HIGHWAYS – in the city of

CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Canterbury:

Item	Road	Proposal
100	Edgar Road	Removal of yellow lines at the top end of the road
113	Querns Road	New double yellow lines at the junctions with the loop by the play area
116	Sussex Avenue and Dorset Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
145	Vernon Place	Change single yellow line to double
203	St Thomas Hill	Single yellow line outside No 23
204	Cherry Drive and Cherry Garden Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
205	Whitehall Road	Change single yellow lines to double
220	Salisbury Road	Double yellow lines outside Nos 3 to 9
240	St Michael's Road	Double yellow lines alongside the grassed island at the junction with St Michael's Place
260	Farleigh Road and Hever Place	Double yellow lines at the junction
265	Broad Oak Road	Double yellow lines to form passing places between Stonebridge Road and Farleigh Road
275	Brymore Close	New parking bay
999C	Various	Make existing Disabled Parking Bays in Guildford Road, Knight Avenue, Long Acre Close, Spring Lane enforceable

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to further amend the Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Herne Bay:

Item	Road	Proposal
300	Mill Lane/Woodrow Chase	Double yellow lines at the junction
320	Margate Road/Talmead Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
330	Landon Road/Grange Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
340	Reculver Road/Coventry Gardens	Double yellow lines at the junction
350	Reculver Road/Glenbervie Drive	Double yellow lines at the junction
360	Beltinge Road and Sea View Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
380	Mickleburgh Hill and Tyndale Park	Double yellow lines in Tyndale Park at the junction
420	Stanley Road and Arkley Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
435	High Street and The Broadway	Loading ban in The Broadway at the junction with Sea Street and at the junction of Station Road, High Street and Avenue Road
440	Sea Street	Double yellow lines on the eastern side between Avenue Road and Western Avenue
450	Sea Street	Restrict the parking bay outside the Post Office to 30 minute waiting
465	Greenhill Road	Extend double yellow lines outside Nos 18-22 Kingfisher Court
999H	Various	Make existing Disabled Parking Bays Carlton Hill, Fleetwood Avenue, Station Road, Linden Avenue, North Street enforceable

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to further amend the Kent County Council (Whitstable) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Whitstable:

Item	Road	Proposal
520	Chestfield Road/The Ridgeway	Double yellow lines at the junction
540	Plantation Road	Extend double yellow lines near the junction with Chestfield Road
550	Chestfield Road opposite Maydowns Road	Double yellow lines in entrance to the closed off access road
570	St John's Road and Plough Lane	Double yellow lines at the junction
595	Nacholt Close	Double yellow lines at the junction with Ham Shades Lane
605	Tankerton Road and Graystone Road	Remove a parking bay in Tankerton Road and replace it with one in Graystone Road
615	St Anne's Road	Double yellow lines at the junction with Northwood Road
620	Queens Road	Yellow lines between Pier Avenue and Wynn Road
635	Tower Hill	New Disabled Parking Bays outside the tea garden and extend the free parking bays
640	Westgate Terrace	Double yellow lines on the northern side
680	Old Bridge Road	Extend double yellow lines outside No 27
687	Swanfield Road	Remove single yellow line outside 30 to 36
700	Essex Street	Double yellow lines
720	Joy Lane	Extend double yellow lines outside No 78
750	Faversham Road	Double yellow lines between Lucerne Drive and the railway bridge
999W	Long Rock	Make existing Disabled Parking Bay in Long Rock enforceable

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to further amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury Rural Parishes) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in rural parishes in the Canterbury District:

Item	Road	Parish	Proposal
817	Cold Harbour Lane	Bridge	Double yellow lines under the A2 bridge
830	The Street	Wickhambreaux	Additional School Keep Clear marking
845	Popes Lane and Hillbrow Avenue	Sturry	Double yellow lines at the junction
870	Mill Lane, Harbledown	Harbledown	Double yellow lines on the corners of the cul de sac leading to Nos 7 to 15

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CITY OF CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON FOOTWAY OR VERGE) (AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order will be to further amend The Kent County Council (Various Roads, City of Canterbury) (Prohibition of Stopping on Footway or Verge) Order 2010 by prohibiting stopping at any time with one or more wheels on the footway or verge on both sides of the following lengths of road:


Item	Road	Town	Extent of prohibition
143	Dover Street	Canterbury	Prohibition of parking on the pavement
230	Salisbury Road area	Canterbury	Prohibition of parking on the pavement in Salisbury Road, Bramshaw Road, Verwood Close, Durnford Close, Brockenhurst Close, Damerham Close, Cadnam Close, Ringwood Close
250	Beaconsfield Road, St Michael's Road and St Michael's Place	Canterbury	Prohibition of parking on the pavement in Beaconsfield Road, St Michael's Road and St Michael's Place
656	High Street area	Whitstable	Prohibition of parking on the pavement in High Street, Harbour Street and Oxford Street

These orders were made on 15 May 2012 and come into force on 11 June 2012. Full details are contained in the Orders which, together with a Statement of the council's reasons for making the Orders and a copy of the orders amended by the Orders may be examined at the Canterbury City Council offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Orders or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

This Notice is published on behalf of Kent County Council, Highways and Transportation, Enterprise and Environment, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 2XQ





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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/0566/S - WELL COTTAGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Erection of a detached single storey outbuilding (garden room). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0567/S - WELL COTTAGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations to allow introduction of en suite shower room and insertion of 2No. roof lights to rear (south west) elevation and 1No. roof light to (north west) elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0653/N - GODDINGTON, GODDINGTON LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1JX - Installation of up-and-over timber garage doors to outbuilding. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0660/N - LENHAM STORAGE COMPANY LTD, HAM LANE, LENHAM, KENT, ME17 2LH - An application for a new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission (MA/09/0280 Demolition of existing warehouse and construction of a new storage warehouse) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/12/0662/S - 51, ABINGDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9EE - Single storey front extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0668/N - NEWNHAM COURT INN, NEWNHAM COURT FARM, BEARSTED ROAD, WEAVERING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5LH - An application for listed building consent for the installation of 4no externally illuminated signs, 5no internally illuminated signs and 5no non-illuminated signs and rope lighting to the front elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0791/S - LINDFIELD FARM, WILLOW LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, KENT - Change of use of land to stationing for the occupation of one gypsy family with the stationing of 4 mobile homes and 4 touring caravans with associated hardstanding and boundary treatments. **Reason: 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **3rd June 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 20th May 2012

Public Notice

20 May 2012



Audit of accounts year ended 31 March 2012

Audit Commission Act 1998, sections 15-16

Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 Regulations 9, 10, 21, 22 & 24

The council's accounts are subject to external audit by Andy Mack of Audit Commission, c/o 4th Floor B Block, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

- From 25 June to 20 July between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday any person may inspect the accounts of the council for the year ended 31 March 2012 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
- From 9am on 23 July 2012 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the council, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
- From 9am on 23 July 2012 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the council, or his/her representative, may object to the council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1998). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

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Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/00666/FUL: Tankerton Slopes and Marine Parade, Whitstable Erection of 17 Beach Huts. **Applicant: Mr R Griffiths**
Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00689/FUL: 64 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BB Ground-floor extension to existing retail premises, extension and conversion of existing first-floor space to residential accommodation and associated works. **Applicant: The Trustees of Jones Samuel Retirement Benefit Scheme**
Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00701/FUL: Butts Farm, School Lane, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NS Installation of photovoltaic array on outbuilding.
Applicant: Mr D McCully Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/00711/CAC: Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ Partial demolition of residential institution to facilitate redevelopment.
Applicant: Mr J Thurston Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA/12/00712/FUL: Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ Redevelopment of residential institution including partial demolition to create two detached dwellings with associated garages. **Applicant: Mr J Thurston** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00733/FUL: 79 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5AR Replacement windows and entrance door to dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs Lewis**
Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/00736/FUL: The Thatched House, Gravel Castle Road, Barham, CT4 6EU Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and the construction of a split-level replacement garage and garden store. **Applicant: Mr Nicholas Showan** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00741/FUL: 2 Chapel Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5GN Erection of detached dwelling. **Applicant: Neptunes Amusements**
Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00757/FUL: 49 and 51 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PN External alterations and change of use of No 49 from residential to retail (Use Class A1). **Applicant: Ms O'Mahoney** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00764/ADV: 7 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JT Installation of 1 no illuminated fascia sign, 3 no internally illuminated fascia sign and 2 no internally illuminated projecting signs. **Applicant: New Look Group plc** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00765/FUL: Land rear of Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, CT2 8NJ Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/08/0111/HAC for the erection of detached dwelling with associated parking in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: William King Homes Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00766/FUL: 104 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, CT5 1DT Single-storey rear extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Ms Jane Lindsey**
Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00767/LB: 30 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BZ Refurbishment of existing shopfront and signage.
Applicant: Mail Boxes etc Canterbury Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/00769/FUL: Gothic House, 36 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, CT6 8TG Replacement doors and windows, erection of railings and installation of balcony above entrance porch. **Applicant: Easterley Cox** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00775/FUL: The Dairy, 1 Colewood Farmstead, Herne Bay, CT6 7PE Erection of porch. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Welsh**
Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/12/00776/LB: The Dairy, 1 Colewood Farmstead, Herne Bay, CT6 7PE Erection of porch. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Welsh**
Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/00786/FUL: 56 York Road, Canterbury, CT1 3SX Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mrs Smith** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00790/FUL: Benson House, Pin Hill, Canterbury, CT1 2RB Single-storey extension to front elevation.
Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 11 June 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 18 May 2012

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Fresh Fruit Distribution Limited Trading as Fresh Fruit Distribution Ltd of 1 Court Tree Drive, Eastchurch Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4TR, is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at 9 Rushenden Road, Queenborough, Kent ME11 5HB To keep an extra 0 goods vehicles and 5 trailers at Unit 4 Klondyke Trading Estate, Rushenden Road, Queenborough, Kent ME11 5HH Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.
www.businesslink.gov.uk/transport

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE AND SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS KH389, KH448/ZR305, KH449, KH450, KH451 IN THE PARISHES OF WICHLING, OTTERDEN AND DODDINGTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS KH389, KH448/ZR305, KH449, KH450, KH451 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(i), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close the following Public Footpaths

- KH389 (between Hubbards Hill and Payden Street) for approx 1 week
- KH450 (between Paydens Street Farm and north of The Homestead) for approx 1 week
- KH451 (between Payden Street and Slade Road) for approx 1 week
- KH448 (between the junction with KH454 and the junctions with Slade Road / Old Farm Lane) for approx 3 weeks
- KH449 (between Payden Street and the junction with KH448) for approx 3 weeks

from the 1st June 2012

The Order allows for the paths to be closed for a maximum of six months, should this be necessary.

The paths will be closed because works to excavate and build a pipeline are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 20th May 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

**A2042 BAD MUNSTEREIFEL ROAD, ASHFORD
(40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst gas mains replacement works are being carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary eastbound mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on the A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford.

The section of road affected is on the eastbound carriageway, from the junction with Romney Marsh Road to where it becomes designated as the A2070 Trunk Road.

This Order comes into force on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed, and applies when the relevant speed limit signs are displayed on site.

**BROMLEY GREEN ROAD, RUCKINGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bromley Green Road, Ruckinge, on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Ashford Road.

The alternative route is via Ashford Road, Capel Road and Bromley Green Road.

**ULLEY ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to lay a new electricity cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ulley Road, Ashford, on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Faversham Road.

The alternative route is via Faversham Road and Upper Vicarage Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**(A290 WHITSTABLE ROAD, BLEAN)
(RESTRICTED ROAD TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012**

Kent County Council has made the above named order under Sections 82 (1) and 87 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:-

The effect of the order will revoke the order: The Kent County Council (A290, Blean) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2004. By revoking this order Whitstable Road, Tile Kiln Hill and Blean Hill A290 will become a (30mph) restricted speed road by the presence of street lighting.

This Order shall come into force on 20th May 2012 and may be cited as The Kent County Council (A290 Whitstable Road, Blean) (Restricted Road Traffic) Order 2012

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Canterbury City Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

**CANTERBURY ROAD, HERNE BAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow Network Rail to carry out a bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, on or after 24 May 2012 from 10.00 pm through until 6.00 am the following morning.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Beltinge Road, Sea View Road, Reculver Road, Margate Road, A299 Thanet Way and Canterbury Road.

**KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable a sewer connection to be made to a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street, Canterbury, on or after 21 May 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Friars.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via King Street, Palace Street and Orange Street.

Northbound via Orange Street, Palace Street, The Borough, St Radigund's Street, Knotts Lane and King Street.

**ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to lay phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to through traffic between the junctions with London Road and Forty Acres Road.

The alternative routes are via

London Road, A2050 Harbledown By-Pass, Palmers Cross Hill, Rough Common Road, A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill and Whitstable Road

or via Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road, B2248 St Stephen's Hill, St Stephen's Road, Station Road West and St Dunstan's Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

**CAPEL STREET, CAPEL-LE-FERNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne, on or after 26 May 2012 for up to 2 days, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed between New Dover Road and the bridge over the A20 Trunk Road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Cauldham Lane, Swinge Hill and Hockley Sole Lane.

Various side roads will be closed at their junctions with Capel Street as the works progress, as signposted on site.

**COLD BLOW LEVEL CROSSING, RIPPLE, DEAL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cold Blow Level Crossing, Ripple, Deal, on or after 27 May 2012, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm. Coldbow will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Coldblow, Ripple Road, A258 Dover Road, Station Road and Coldblow.

**KINGSDOWN ROAD, ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Kingsdown Road, St Margaret's at Cliffe, on or after 23 May 2012 for up to 1 day, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, which also affects access to The Freedown.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

**SINGLEEDGE LANE, WHITFIELD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Singleedge Lane, Whitfield, on or after 21 May 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with

Green Lane and Coldred Road.

The alternative route is via Coldred Road, The Street, Kennel Hill, Sandwich Road and Nursery Lane.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 14) ORDER 2012**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act: The effect of the Order will be to prohibit waiting at any time at the following locations:-

Astor Avenue, Dover	On the south side of the road, from the existing 'at any time' waiting restrictions west of the traffic island, in a westerly direction for a distance of 8m.
York Road, Walmer	On the west side of the road from the existing 'at any time' waiting restrictions outside numbers 58 to 62, to be extended a northerly direction for a distance of 3m.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Traffic Schemes Team, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 11 June 2012.

**THE RISE, KINGSDOWN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Rise, Kingsdown, on or after 10 June 2012 for up to 1 day, between 9.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Chalk Hill Road and Upper Street.

HIGHWAYS - East Kent

**VARIOUS ROADS, EAST KENT (SURFACE DRESSING)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow carriageway surface dressing works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit through traffic on the roads detailed below.

The Order will become effective on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 2 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates for each road closure are shown below. Works will be carried out between the hours of 7.00 am and 7.00 pm, unless otherwise stated.

The closure dates will be displayed by signage on site 7 days in advance. The closures will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

A further closure will be needed on each road for up to one day, approximately 7 days after original closure, to carry out road sweeping and lining.

Every effort will be made to keep to the timetable shown below. However, adverse weather conditions may prevent some roads being surfaced on the planned date.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled later on in the programme, as advised locally and signposted on site.

Where closures are in No Through Roads, every effort will be made to maintain as much access as is safely possible

Roads are listed by District, in the order they are planned to be carried out.

SWALE

PLOUGH ROAD, EASTCHURCH - between Eastchurch Road to Warden Road

6th June 2012
Alternative route via Eastchurch Road, Lower Road, High Street and Warden Road

WARDWELL LANE, NEWINGTON - between School Lane and High Oak Hill

6th June 2012
Alternative route via School Lane, The Street, Breach Lane, Boxted Lane & School Lane

WISES LANE, BORDEN - between Maylam Gardens and The Street

6th June 2012
Alternative route via London Road, Borden Lane & The Street

DEANS BOTTOM, BREDGAR - between Pett Lane and Kennel Barn Road

7th June 2012
Alternative route via Pett Lane, South Green Lane & Kennel Barn Road

KENNEL BARN ROAD, BREDGAR - between South Green Lane and Deans Hill Road

7th June 2012
Alternative route via Deans Bottom, Pett Lane and South Green Lane

DEANS HILL ROAD, BREDGAR - between Kennel Barn Road and Blind Mary's Lane

7th June 2012
Alternative route via Kennel Barn Road, South Green Lane, Bicknor Road, Swanton Street and Blind Mary's Lane

CONYER QUAY, TEYNHAM - from Conyer Road, for its entire length

7th June 2012
There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac; limited access may be possible when safe

THROWLEY ROAD, THROWLEY - between the entrance to Belmont Park Estate and Almshouse Road

7th June 2012
Alternative route via Hayward's Hill, Stalisfield Road, Church Road, Pettfield Hill Road and Almshouse Road

PERRY WOOD, SELLING - the section from Selling Court Farm heading south eastwards towards "Three Beeches"

8th June 2012
Alternative route via Beeches Road and Perry Wood

MONKSHILL ROAD, HERNHILL

Westbound via Highstreet Road, overbridge to A229 Thanet Way (London-bound), Thanet Way, Staple Street, Staple Street Road, Head Hill, Head Hill Road and Seasalter Road.

Eastbound via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Head Hill, Whitstable Road, A229 Thanet Way (coast-bound) and Highstreet Road.

CANTERBURY

BOGSHOLE ROAD / GOLDEN HILL, WHITSTABLE - between A290 Clapham Hill and the 30 mph sign at the junction with Golden Hill

8th June 2012
Alternative route via A290 Clapham Hill and A2990 (Old) Thanet Way

SOUTH STREET, WHITSTABLE - between Chestfield Road and Millstrood Road.

12th June 2012
Alternative route via Millstrood Road, Chestfield Road and A2990 (Old) Thanet Way

NORTH STREAM, CHISLET - between Boyden Gate Hill and the bridge over the Thanet Way

12th June 2012
Alternative route via Brook Lane, Reculver Lane, Sweenchbridge Road, Heart in Hand Road, Ford Hill, Highstead and Boyden Gate Hill

CHITTY LANE, CHISLET - for its entire length

12th June 2012
Alternative route via Church Lane

CONYNGHAM LANE, BRIDGE - for its entire length

13th June 2012
There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac; every effort will be made to allow access, and liaison will be been carried out with the school

ASHFORD

COLDBRIDGE LANE, EGERTON - Between Pemples Cross and Coldbridge Farm

13th June 2012
Alternative route via Egerton House Road, Coach Road, Boughton Road, Church Road and Woodcock Lane

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



MUNDAY BOIS ROAD, EGERTON - Between Rock Hill Road and The Pinnock
13th June 2012
Alternative route via The Pinnock, Smarden Road, Egerton Road, New Road and Rock Hill Road

MOONS GREEN, WITTERSHAM - for its entire length
15th June 2012
Alternative route via Palstre Court Road, B2o82 Poplar Road and Swan Street

BECKETT ROAD, APPLEDORE - Between Rhee Wall Road and Becket's Bridge
15th June 2012
Alternative route via B2o8o Rhee Wall, Station Road, A259 Hastings Road / Straight Lane/ Guldeford Road

CAPEL ROAD, ORLESTONE - Between Hamstreet Road and Dynes Lane
16th June 2012
Alternative route via Ashford Road , The Street, Cock Lane, Ruckinge Road, Hamstreet Road , Bilsington Road , Ashford Road , Stone Cross Road

DYNES LANE, BILSINGTON - for its entire length
17th June 2012
Alternative route via Stone Cross Road, Ashford Road

BROCKMANS LANE, KINGSNORTH & CHEQUER TREE FARM ROAD, MERSHAM - between Finn Farm Road and Frith Road
17th June 2012
Alternative route via Finn Farm Road, Cheesemans Green Road, Swanton Lane, Coopers Lane

MANOR POUND LANE, BRABOURNE - in phases between Canterbury Road and Weekes Lane/ Green Lane
20th June 2012
The alternative routes depend on which part of the road is closed, as follows
Closure between Canterbury Road and Lees Road, via Canterbury Road, Woolpack Hill, Lees Road
Closure between Lees Road and Weekes Lane, via Manor Pound Lane, Canterbury Road, The Street, Canterbury Road, Pilgrims Way, Hampton Lane, Plumpton

SOUTH HILL & TAMLEY LANE, HASTINGLEIGH - Between New Barn Road and The Street
21st June 2012
Alternative route via New Barn Road and The Street

SHEPWAY

HOOK WALL BRENZETT - Between Hook Lane and Ashentree Lane
21st June 2012
Alternative route via Hook Lane, A259 Rye Road, Brookland By-pass, Royal Oak Lane, Clubbs Lane, Boarmans Lane, Barnhouse Lane, and Ashentree Lane

KINGS STREET, BRENZETT - Between Carter Lane and Rhee Wall
21st June 2012
Alternative route via King Street, Rectory Lane, A259 Brookland Bypass and B2o8o Rhee Wall

CHURCH LANE, BRENZETT - Between Ashford Road and Butler Lane
22nd June 2012
Alternative route via Ashford Road and Butler Lane

BUTLER LANE, BRENZETT - Between Church Lane and Ashford Road
22nd June 2012
Alternative route via Church Lane and Ashford Road

CUCKOLDS LANE, SNARGATE - for its entire length
22nd June 2012
Alternative route via B2o8o Rhee Wall Road and Arrowhead Lane

NEWCHURCH - the un-named road from Newchurch to Eastbridge Road / Giggers Green Road, for its entire length
22nd June 2012
Alternative route via Giggers Green, Knoll Hill, Bonnington Road and Newchurch Road

B2o63 NORTH ROAD & WEST ROAD, SHORNCLIFFE, FOLKESTONE - between Hospital Hill and Military Road
25th June 2012
Alternative route via Hospital Hill, A259 Seabrook Road, Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate High Street and Military Road

SANDLING ROAD, POSTLING - Between A2o Ashford Road (Postling Wents) and Canterbury Road (Newbarn)
25th June 2012
Alternative route via A2o Ashford Road, Beachborough and Canterbury Road.

ELVINGTON LANE, HAWKINGE - Between Aerodrome Road and Crete Road West
26th June 2012
Alternative route via Aerodrome Road, A26o Spitfire Way, White Horse Hill, Canterbury Road and Crete Road West

STANDEN LANE, HAWKINGE - Between Alkham Valley Road and Cowgate Lane
26th June 2012
Alternative route via Alkham Valley Road, A26o White Horse Hill, Canterbury Road, The Street and Cowgate Lane

SKEETE ROAD, LYMINGE - for its entire length
26th June 2012
There is no alternative route and limited access will maintained when safe to do so

GREEN LANE/HEMPSTEAD LANE, LYMINGE - Between B2o68 Stone Street and The Minnis
26th June 2012
Alternative route via B2o68 Stone Street, Mockbeggar and The Minnis.

LYMBRIDGE GREEN, STOWTING - Between Stone Street and Big Pett
27th June 2012
Alternative route via B2o68 Stone Street, Peace Lane and Stowting Hill

BOYKE LANE, LYMINGE - Between Canterbury Road and White Horse Lane
27th June 2012
Alternative route via Canterbury Road, Longage Hill and White Horse Lane

VICARAGE LANE & LICKPOT HILL, ELHAM - between junction of New Road and junction with Oak Hill
27th June 2012
Alternative route via New Road, Canterbury Road, Beresforstal Hill and Oak Hill.

STUD FARM LANE, ELHAM - between Beech Lane and Park Gate Road
27th June 2012
Alternative route via Fir Tree Hill and Beech Villa Lane

DROVEWAY / CLAVERTYE, ELHAM - between Wheelbarrow Town and the junction with Exted Hill
28th June 2012
Alternative route via High Minnis, Gate Lane, Chapel Lane and Mount Top

CURTIS LANE, STELLING MINNIS - between Stone Street and Bossingham Road
28th June 2012
Alternative route via Bossingham Road, Wheelbarrow Town, High Minnis, Mockbegger and B2o68 Stone Street.

WHATSOLE STREET, ELMSTEAD - the un-named section of road extending from Whatsole Street, between Elchin Hill and Dean Bottom
28th June 2012
Alternative route via Dean Bottom, Dean Hill, Thorn Lane, B2o68 Stone Street, Lymbridge Green and Big Pett

DOVER

WINEHOUSE LANE, CAPEL-LE-FERNE - between Capel Street and New Dover Road
29th June 2012
Alternative route via Capel Street and New Dover Road

CAPEL STREET, CAPEL-LE-FERNE - between Ingleton Wood Road and bridge
29th June 2012
Alternative route via Hurst Lane, Cauldham Lane, Hockley Sole, Alkham Valley Road, Meggett Lane

SWANTON LANE, LYDDEN - between Swanton Court Farm and Lydden Hill
30th June 2012
Alternative route via Lydden Hill, Geddinge Lane, Wootton Lane, Stockham Lane and Swanton Lane

WOOTTON LANE, DENTON - between Stockham Lane and Dumbrill Hill
30th June 2012
Alternative routes - northbound via Stockham Lane, A26o Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road and Geddinge Lane - westbound via Dumbrill Hill, A2 Dover Road, A26o Canterbury Road and Stockham Lane.

FERNFIELD LANE, ALKAM including part of Little Everden Road - between The Street, Hawkinge and Chalksole Green Lane
1st July 2012
Alternative route via Fernfield Lane, Cowgate Lane, Standen Lane, Alkham Valley Road, Slip Lane, Green Wood Slip and Chalksole Green Lane

THORNTON LANE, EASTRY - between Heronden Road and Thornton Road
2nd July 2012
Alternative route via Heronden Road, Sandwich Road, Rose Hill, Thornton Road, Pike Road, Lower Street and Mill Lane

GOLF ROAD, DEAL - between Ethelbert Road and The Chequers Public House
2nd July 2012
There is no alternative route and limited access will maintained when safe to do so

MILL LANE, SHEPHERDSWELL - between Coldred Road and Shepherdswell Road
3rd July 2012
Alternative route via Church Hill, Shepherdswell Road, Chapel Hill, Coldred Road, Church Road and Coldred Road

KENNEL HILL, EYTHORNE - between Monkton Court Lane and Sandwich Road
3rd July 2012
Alternative route via Sandwich Road, Barville Road, A256 Whitfield By-pass and Sandwich Road

FORGE LANE, SUTTON and ABBEY ROAD, LANGDON - between Wingleton Lane to Abbey Road / Pineham Turning To Forge Lane
4th July 2012 for 2 days
Alternative route via Church Hill, Downs Road, Homestead Lane, Chapel Lane, Waldershare Road, Sandwich Road and Church Whitfield Road

WINGLETON LANE, SUTTON - between Sutton Lane and Forge Lane
6th July 2012
Alternative route via Vale Road, Forge Lane, Waterworks Hill, Waterworks Lane, The Street, Ringwould Road, Ripple Road, Crooked S Road, Chapel Lane and Sutton Road

LucERNE LANE, LANGDON - between the junction with Old Roman Road and The Street, Martin
6th July 2012
Alternative route via East Langdon Road, The Street East Langdon, Church Lane, East Langdon Road, The Street Guston, The Lane, Hangman's Lane, A258 Deal Road, Front Street, Sutton Lane and Ringwould Road

RICHBOROUGH ROAD, SANDWICH - between the property called Trevone and Cop Street Road
7th July 2012 for 2 days
Alternative route via Cop Street Road, A257 Ash Bypass, The Causeway, Ash Road and Richborough Road

GLEN ROAD, KINGSDOWN and LIVERPOOL ROAD, WALMER - from north of the junction with Osborne Road to Grams Road
7th July 2012
Alternative route via Liverpool Road, Granville Road, Kingsdown Road, Upper Street, The Rise, Ringwould Road, A258 Dover Road and Grams Road

THE STREET, NORTHBOURNE - between Deal Road and Northbourne Road
7th July 2012
Alternative route via Deal Road, Willow Road and Northbourne Lane

UPDOWN ROAD, NORTHBOURNE - between Northbourne Road and Ham Lane
7th July 2012
Alternative route via Updown Road, Hay Lane, Hay Hill, Brook Street, Lower Street, Dover Road, A256 Eastry Bypass, Northbourne Road, Northbourne Lane and Hay Lane.

AGESTER LANE, DENTON - between The Street, Denton and From North Elham Hill and Bunkers Hill
8th July 2012
Alternative route via From North Elham Hill to Bunkers Hill, North Elham Hill, Golden Hill, Reece Lane, A26o Canterbury Road, The Street, Denton.

WESTCOURT ROAD, SHEPHERDSWELL - between the A2 and Westcourt Lane
8th July 2012
Alternative route via Westcourt Lane, Wick Lane, A2 Dover Road, Coxhill Road, Westcourt Lane

THANET

NASH ROAD, MARGATE - between Haine Road and Shottendane Road
9th July 2012
Alternative route via Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road, Ramsgate Road, Chapel Hill, Ramsgate Road and Haine Road

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

NORWOOD LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Norwood Lane, Meopham between properties Sunhilow and Wembury.
The Order will become effective on 21st May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 25th May 2012 and planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.
The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Norwood Lane, Camber Road and Wrotham Road.
The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a Sewer connection.

WHITE HORSE LANE, HARVEL ROAD, ERSKINE ROAD, HARVEL ROAD and COMMORITY ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
Because of Harvel 5 Mile Running Race , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on White Horse Lane, Harvel Road, Erskine Road, Harvel Road and Commority Road, on or after 2 June

2012 for up to 1 day or until the Event has been completed and again on the 1st June 2013 .
The roads closed will be White Horse Lane, Harvel Road, Erskine Road, Harvel Road and Commority Road.
There will be no access for through traffic, The duration of the Closure of the above roads will be from 1:45pm to 3:15pm

ST JAMES ROAD, GRAVESEND- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on St James Road, Gravesend between its junction with Darnley Road and St James Street.

The Order will become effective on 6th June 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day, between 07:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Darnley Road, New Road, Overcliff and St James Street.

The purpose of the closure is to provide a safe working site for operatives.

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

PESTED BARS BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pested Bars Boughton Monchelsea, on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Joywood through to the junction with Cliff Hill Road .

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Joywood through to the junction with Cliff Hill Road .

The alternative route is via Pested Bars Road, Brishing Lane, A274 Sutton road, Lansdowne Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CRETE ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crete Road, Folkestone, on or after 21 May 2012, as detailed below.

CRETE ROAD WEST will be closed from 21 May 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Elvington Lane and Gibraltar Lane.

The alternative route is via Elvington Lane and Gibraltar Lane.

CRETE ROAD EAST will be closed from 29 May 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.
The alternative route is via A26o Canterbury Road, Hill Road and B2011 Dover Hill

THE OLD HIGH STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Old High Street, Folkestone, on or after 21 May 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 10.
There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access for businesses whenever it is safe to do so.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A224 POLHILL, SEVENOAKS)
(50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, has made the following Order:-

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 50 miles per hour along the A224 Polhill and London Road, from the junction with Morants Court Road to a point 330 metres north of its junction with Otford Lane.
2. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (A224 Polhill, Sevenoaks) (50 mph Speed Limit) Order 2012".

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on the 21st May 2012, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders

**HILLINGDON AVENUE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Hillingdon Avenue, Sevenoaks and the Junction with Seal Road.

The Order will become effective on 3rd June 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for use when required for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are due to commence on 4th June 2012 and are planned to last 6 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route will be via: Seal Hollow Road, Seal Road and vice versa.

The purpose of the restriction is to facilitate a gas mains replacement.

**TWITTON LANE, SHOREHAM (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Twitton Lane, Shoreham from the junction of Filston Lane to the junction with Pilgrims Way, Otford, Sevenoaks.

The Order will become effective on 20th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 22nd May 2012 and will last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pilgrims Way East, Filston Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale**LUDDENHAM HILL, LUDDENHAM, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to safely remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Luddenhall Hill, Luddenhall, Faversham, on or after 26 May 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the north of the junction

with Bysing Wood Road.

The alternative route is via Wildmarsh Road and Bysing Wood Road.

**RUINS BARN ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to lay a new electricity cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ruins Barn Road, Sittingbourne, on or after 6 June 2012, for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Broadoak Road and Cromer Road.

The alternative route is via Broadoak Road, Bottom Pond Road and Cromer Road.

HIGHWAYS - Thanet**VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF
DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JUNE 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway microsurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Margate, on or after 6 June 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

UNION CRESCENT will be closed on 6 June 2012, between the junctions with Cecil Street and Addington Street

The alternative route is via Addington Street, King Street and Hawley Street

ST JOHN'S STREET / ADDINGTON STREET will be closed on 7 June 2012, between the junctions with Churchfields and Addington Road / Union Crescent.

The alternative route is via Churchfields, Churchfields Place, Hawley Square, Cecil Street, and Union Crescent.

St John's Road will also be closed into the *cul-de-sac* section and at the junction with Addington Street

The remainder of St John's Road can be reached via the above route, plus Addington Road, Victoria Road and Princes Crescent.

UNION ROW AND PUMP LANE, MARGATE will be closed on 8 June 2012.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, Union Crescent, plus Hawley Street for Union Row.

**Districts of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone,
Tonbridge & Malling****THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE STREET PARTIES
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION
(SPECIAL EVENTS ACT) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A**

Kent County Council gives Notice that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst events are being held on the highway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order; the effect will be to temporarily prohibit the use of vehicles on:-

The Broadway, Lamberhurst - from Memorial Hall to junction with the B2100 - 1130hrs to 1700hrs on 3rd June 2012 - diversion via the A21.

B2079 Balcombes Hill, Goudhurst - Junction with A262 High Street to Doctors Surgery - 0900hrs to 1700hrs on 3rd June 2012 - diversion via the A262 and A21.

Teston Road, Offham - adjacent to the village green - 1230hrs to 1730hrs on 3rd June 2012 - diversion via A20 and A228.

A227 The Street, Ightham - entire length - 0900hrs to 1900hrs on 2nd June 2012 - diversion via A25, A225 and B245.

B2010 High Street, Yalding - entire length - 2000hrs to midnight on 4th June 2012 - diversion via Vicarage Lane and Mill Lane.

The Order will become effective on 2nd June 2012. The restrictions/prohibitions specified in this notice will apply only during such times and to such extent as indicated by traffic signs in operation.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 20th May 2012

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Jimmy Carr's got a Gagging Order when he visits for his latest show

SEE PAGE 61



LEGEND TO SING

Kinks' frontman Ray Davies is set to entertain us

SEE PAGE 62

Kent Weekend

Lord of the drums



ELP's Carl Palmer to perform the hits

SEE PAGE 55

PLUS: British pub takes advice from a Spanish menu - **food and drink p57** Keeping up with the Joneses when you move into the square - **property p71** Porsche's latest is Boxter-ing clever - **driving p77**



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THE INTERVIEW

Carl Palmer

No need for 'ELP in Carl's world

FOR almost the entire history of rock 'n' roll Carl Palmer has been providing the backbeat to a succession of top bands, writes Nick Ames.

From Chris Farlowe to Arthur Brown to the world's first super-group Emerson Lake and Palmer (ELP) and onto prog-rockers Asia, Palmer, born March 1950, has been recognized as a brilliant technician and a dynamic showman.

Later this month, he will be playing some classics from his back catalogue, along with a selection of other numbers at Sevenoaks' Stag Theatre with his three piece band.

"I've just come off a series of 18 European dates," said Palmer. "And I'm looking forward to it as it's a venue I have never played before."

"I shall be playing a one hour 50 minute show with some original material from ELP, some classical adaptations and Pictures at an Exhibition (compositions by classical musician Modest Mussorgsky recorded by ELP for a hit album).

"The Carl Palmer Band is instrumental rock, but on the cutting edge so it's very interesting."

"We have been playing to crowds with people from different age ranges, some are around my age, I'm 62, then there are their children in their 30s and sometimes a third generation of younger people as well."

"We have some grunge and metal fans, as although the music is instrumental it's not soft and delicate."

Palmer joined his first professional band aged just 14 and two years later he was playing with Chris Farlowe, alongside guitarist Albert Lee, who went on to play with Eric Clapton.

At the age of 18 he joined The Crazy World of Arthur Brown and played a US tour with the Grateful Dead and Jimi Hendrix.

A stint with Atomic Rooster followed as Palmer's reputation for virtuosity and speed with the sticks spread.

"Then I got a call from Tony Stratton-Smith, who was the manager of Keith Emerson, who was putting together a band," said Palmer.

Emerson was achieving success with The Nice while Greg Lake was riding high with In the Court of the Crimson King with its famous track 21st Century Schizoid Man – later covered by Ozzy Osbourne, sampled by Kanye West and



used in the Guitar Hero computer game.

But the three joined forces to form ELP – a legend in rock music who defined the progressive rock genre and split opinion across the music world.

"Our first show was at the Plymouth Guildhall, ahead of the Isle of Wight Festival of August 1970," said Palmer.

"It only held about 430 people, so it was a pretty small venue. But we went down a storm and earned around £400."

The show at the Isle of Wight has recently been re-released on CD and features a 33 minute version of Pictures at an Exhibition – the current mainstay of Palmer's show.

Emerson had arranged for a cannon to go off during the performance and a member of the road crew had put double the charge inside it. The resulting explosion slightly injured an

Italian cameraman.

Although the band's performance – alongside The Who, The Doors and Jimi Hendrix – has gone down in rock legend not all were impressed. Radio DJ John Peel branded it: "a tragic waste of time, talent and electricity".

Speaking about the festival, Palmer said: "I don't recall how well we played. All I know is that we went down incredibly well."

The following month the band released a self-titled debut album and the stage show became more and more elaborate.

In April 1974, ELP were on top of the bill during the California Jam Festival, pushing co-stars Deep Purple to second billing.

The trio's stage show was broadcast nationwide in the United States, and attended by more than 200,000 paying fans. By the end of 1974, ELP were rivalling The Rolling Stones and Led

Zeppelin as the highest grossing live band in the world.

On stage, the band exhibited an unorthodox mix of virtuoso musicianship and over-the-top theatrics. These included a Persian carpet, a grand piano spinning end-over-end, a rotating percussion platform, and a Hammond organ being thrown around to create feedback.

Emerson often used a knife given to him by Lemmy – of Hawkwind and most famously Motorhead who had roadied for The Nice – to force the keys on the organ to stay down and keep the sound going.

Follow up albums included Tarkus and Brain Salad Surgery as Palmer performed the world's first electric drum solo and grandiose projects such as the triple live album Welcome Back My Friends To The Show That Never Ends kept the band at the forefront of 70s rock.

But as musical fashions changed the band stopped performing and recording, with Palmer joining Asia – a group which included John Wetton of King Crimson, Rick Wakeman of Yes and Geoff Downes of The Buggles.

"Asia is still playing together and so I am in contact with many of the people I have performed with and had as my contemporaries – well those who are not dead."

"Keith and Greg it is more through accounts, there is not much to be said after 40 years but we played together a couple of years ago," said Palmer who is set to tour the USA with Asia later this year.

"I still really enjoy playing, this is what I have done all of my working life."

"I play around 97 concerts a year and even if it is seven nights in a row I do not have any problem getting up and playing as I love my art."

Palmer plays the Stag Theatre on Tuesday. He has also just announced an innovative new iTunes mobile app, Play Carl Palmer's Drums, developed by Dynamic Websites. This allows the user to download his drum kit and play along with fingers to any music playing through their iTunes program. Also included in the app is a myriad of rare Palmer archives and instant updates from his official website. Fans can purchase the app at the iTunes store.

See www.carlpalmer.com for concert and tour information.

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BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815 ☺

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ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990 ☺

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916 ☺

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912 ☺

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SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309 ☺

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305 ☺

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389 ☺

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283 ☺

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503 ☺

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643 ☺

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625 ☺

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTm tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623 ☺

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868 ☺

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757 ☺

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755 ☺

AMANDA honest pretty single mum, 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male/dad for lots of tic and companionship. pls call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389737 ☺

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225 ☺

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743 ☺

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTm similar person. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496 ☺

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787 ☺

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386555 ☺

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301 ☺

46YR old young, curly single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143 ☺

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987 ☺

TARA 5ft 6ft blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731 ☺

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051 ☺

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373 ☺

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar mature male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653 ☺

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649 ☺

LINDA busty blue eyed blonde bombshell, likes holidays, socialising, looking good, WLTm Mr Right to become a perfect trophy wife. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389735 ☺

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733 ☺

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731 ☺

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653 ☺

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, Auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539 ☺

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107 ☺

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555 ☺

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103 ☺

DEBBIE slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun honest gent for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101 ☺

CHARLIE young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051 ☺

LAURA single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTm older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049 ☺

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071 ☺

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145 ☺

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137 ☺

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135 ☺

YVONNE professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111 ☺

SANDY slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTm loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109 ☺

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337 ☺

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275 ☺

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273 ☺

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840 ☺

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377 ☺



WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079 ☺

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626 ☺

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369 ☺

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057 ☺

CHRIS outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055 ☺

TRISHA single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tic. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047 ☺

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231 ☺

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020 ☺

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614 ☺

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159 ☺

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155 ☺

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117 ☺

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163 ☺

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362 ☺

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051 ☺

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081 ☺

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303 ☺

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397979 ☺

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443 ☺

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001 ☺

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045 ☺

Men Seeking

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ERNEST looking for nice friendly lady, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390635 ☺

ROB early 50's, slim, attractive, friendly, GSOH, likes company, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389445 ☺

MALE 56, lots of spare time, seeking lady 40 plus to spice up life with uncomplicated friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390795 ☺

DENTAL practitioner handsome 47, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, seeks slim feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390798 ☺

JOHN young 53yr old, no ties, medium build, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, laidback, black belt, likes music, meals out, nights in, self employed, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389529 ☺

FRISKY filly 48-60 wanted by experienced jockey, me 56yr old nice easygoing fella. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389527 ☺

56YR old easygoing male, tactile, seeks lady, 48-65 who can handle a hot blooded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389367 ☺

J O 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. ACA. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043 ☺

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974 ☺

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703 ☺

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701 ☺

SURREY male, 63, 6ft, slim, OHAC, seeks younger, slim, N/S female, no ties for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388805 ☺

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045 ☺

GOOD looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923 ☺

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495 ☺

SINGLE male, 43, likes pubs, clubs, nights in, seeks young lady 25-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390876 ☺

YACHT owning male, 52, seeks laughing lady who needs excitement and friendship. Hants/West Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390195 ☺

ROBERT 31, 6ft, blondish hair, blue eyes, fun loving, single, seeking female with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389941 ☺

EASYGOING broadminded passionate male, seeks lady of any age for passion and exciting friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389939 ☺

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275 ☺

DARK haired male, slim, seeks female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391002 ☺

TONY 45, looking for lady, any age/size/looks for evening fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390992 ☺

HEALTHY happy 49yr old male, seeks attractive, well spoken, N/S Sussex female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390938 ☺

DISCREET afternoon fun by the seaside, male 39, good looking, seeks female, 18-60 for afternoon slap and tickle. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390936 ☺

6FT male, 38, dark hair, brown eyes, likes salsa, gardening, swimming, seeks female, 38-50 with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390700 ☺

32YR old male, seeks understanding female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390896 ☺

JOE 60, looking for attractive female, 40-55 with GSOH for lunch dates, socialising and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390686 ☺

53YR old male, seeks similar female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390469 ☺

SINGLE dad, 6ft 1ins, forgotten what life is, help! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390540 ☺

MALE 5ft 9ins, brown hair, muscular, seeking well spoken Sussex pretty female, under 46, N/S for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390490 ☺

STEVE 48, good looking, single, likes theatre, nights out, history, seeks lady, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390476 ☺

TONY 5ft 9ins, dark hair, slim-medium build, outgoing, seeks female, 25-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390468 ☺

DAVID 58, professional, slim looking for lady for discreet relationship. East Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387157 ☺

57YR old gent, kind, romantic, likes walks, travel, looking for woman, preferably Pompey fan. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388447 ☺

Gay Seeking

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SUB bi guy 59, well built, seeks male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389106 ☺

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465 ☺

ASSERTIVE guy looking for TV/

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Tapas twist is a welcome change to this traditionally British institution

SET back from the lower Rainham road, small enough that you may miss it if whizzing past, lies a quaint building not in keeping with its surroundings whatsoever.

The Barn restaurant looks quite literally well, like, a barn thrust into the future from medieval times with its white walls and dark wooden beams.

But there are no roast dinners for a fiver or pensioners eat for free in this eatery that you may well find in others bearing the same name in Kent.

The touch of class hits you from the moment you open the door, modern décor and stylish tableware compliment the setting as you are lead through the intimate dining room and up a narrow set of stairs to the bar. The journey through is not ideal but makes the best of a small space.

Up in the roof bar we were served drinks on our comfy sofas and allowed good time to make our selections before we were called for dinner. Our host saw to our every need, making sure there was water on the table and cold drinks being poured as we arrived downstairs, relaxed and ready to devour.

Myself and my partner opted for what we had heard about so many months previously, the British style tapas.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Brilliantly served and skilfully presented using different slates, plates, copper tins and shot glasses, our five selections each at a total of £29.99 per person arrived.

As an amuse bouche we were handed a sharing platter of homemade breads, fried local sprats, a homemade prawn salad and confit lemon.

A number of the dishes were served with homemade crisps that blew away any salty packaged snack you could ever taste.

To start we went for the salmon cherville and

spring onion fishcake, which was far larger than I expected but perfectly cooked.

My favourite part of the whole meal also came as a starter, the quail egg "scotched" in duck meat balanced on a seared black pudding. Again it was beautifully cooked with a mixture of flavours that make my mouth water again just writing this.

My other half went for the chicken boudin with pea and mint mousse, a cheeky trial let me taste the very different flavours that have been carefully chosen together.

Our final starter was the mustard, smoked apple infused Welsh rarebit, potato rosti which looked delightful but I had to leave that to my guest as I saved room for the middle course.

Along came the confit leg of Gressingham duck with apricot, ginger and rhubarb salsa. For what was meant to be a tapas, again I was pleasantly surprised by the large size of the duck portion. No hint of dryness and a very complimentary sauce made for an excellent dish.

Hold on, actually the next course was my favourite as the boar, sage and apple "toad in the hole" was brought to the table. Now this really was the British tapas I had been expecting, with the tiny Yorkshire pudding sitting atop a glass that hid the much larger boar sausage. Devoured in the blink of an eye

without offering it to my guest says it all really.

Although she did have to contend with both the gammon, mustard and apple pie as well as the breast of chicken, chorizo and tomato dressing. Nods, winks and small tastes emphasised further excellence, with the gammon confirming itself as very much an unsung hero of the meal.

Our side dishes were also included in the price, a savoy cabbage with pancetta fricassee and chorizo, tomato and haricot bean cassoulet adding extra flavours but we probably over did on the meat dishes to be honest.

A delicious plate of home made brownie and chocolate sauce ended a meal fit for a British king, despite its Spanish orientation.

The relaxed atmosphere and attic bar and roof terrace would make The Barn a perfect location for further drinks long into the summer night and all for just over £88.

There are other options with the tasting menu and more traditional dishes available. Whatever you go for, a trip to The Barn in Rainham is a must.

Joe Bill

■ The Barn, 507 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, ME8 7TN Telephone: 01634 361363, www.thebarnrestaurant.co.uk

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To join the ship, we travel by train from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request) to Amsterdam, via Brussels.

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- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (*from Ashford/Ebbsfleet



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7 July, 2012

Travelling by Eurostar train from London St Pancras, then the swift TGV to train to Nice on the French Riviera, the journey on this holiday promises to be as exciting as the places we will visit.

The TGV train heads effortlessly south through serene landscapes before encountering the alluring scenery of the Cote d'Azur - yacht-filled harbours, beaches, rocky inlets and millionaires' villas.

Our destination is Nice, the region's capital, where we spend 3 nights.



Fireworks light up Monaco's Port Hercule harbour

The pinnacle of the weekend is a day spent in neighbouring Monaco, taking in the famous sights including Monte Carlo Casino, Café de Paris and the old city on the Rock of Monaco. Our visit also takes in a spectacular Musical Fireworks display over Port Hercule Harbour.

At the end of the holiday we return to the UK by train from Nice.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (*from Ebbsfleet/ Ashford on request)
- 3 nights hotel B&B in Nice
- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco



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Hayling Island

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30 November, 2012

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without GN Holidays annual Warner Christmas Party Extravaganza. The 2012 event - for over 40s only - will be the usual

blend of fun and festivities. Norton Grange Resort - nicely located by the sea at Yarmouth - will be decked out for the Festive season. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival and, during your stay, you will enjoy Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

INCLUDED:

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Play the game of thrones King's history

Dover Castle

Open 10am-6pm.
0870 333 1183

www.english-heritage.org.uk

VISITORS to Dover Castle in May will need to practise their curtsies and brush up on their bows as they come face to face with King Henry II and his ambitious wife Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine.

The royal pair will be in residence to welcome guests to the Great Tower, but all is not as it seems as intrigue and betrayal seethe below the surface of this, the 12th century's most influential family.

Guests of Henry, one of England's greatest kings, will also meet his son, the power-hungry Prince John, and his beautiful fiancée Princess Alys. Attending the court and revel



in the luxury of the medieval palace joining the cut-throat world of family politics, where son plots against father, wife against husband, and brother against brother. Join one of the

greatest power games in history and discover what is really going on in the House of Plantagenet. Tickets £16.50 adults, £9.90 for children and English Heritage members free.



Pitter patter of hooves New arrivals at park

Port Lympne, Ashford

Open daily from 9.30am-6pm

0844 842 4647, www.aspinallfoundation.org

HOOFSTOCK keepers at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park are delighted to welcome two new arrivals to their herd of eland antelopes.

The calves are just two weeks old and are settling into life on the 100acre African Experience of Kentish savannah where black rhino, ostrich and giraffe roam freely with zebra, eland and many other species.

Bob Savill, hoofstock keeper, said: "The calves are doing really well, although they are still very shy. Their mums are keeping a diligent watch over them to make sure they are safe."

Classic cars, brewery tours and festive fun Extended weekend

Faversham Town Centre

May 19 - 20

01795 542285

www.shepherdneame.co.uk.

THE famous Faversham Classic Car Show will continue as a two-day event embracing all historical vehicles and displays this weekend. It is a special year for transport lovers as it marks the 50th anniversary of the iconic Triumph Spitfire car. Shepherd Neame has teamed up with Practical Classics Magazine to restore one of these popular sports cars and the pristine vehicle will be on display outside the Visitor Centre on both days.

There will also be a chance to meet some of the Practical Classics team, hear the story of the renovation and take a photo next to the branded Triumph Spitfire.

Shepherd Neame will be running guided brewery tours across the weekend where visitors can go behind the scenes at Britain's oldest brewer and discover history combines with modern technology to produce Kentish Ales and lagers.

Proms for an Elektra night Park concert

Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, July 28

www.assemblyhalltheatre.

THE first ever proms in Dunorlan Park are set to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics with an evening of classics and patriotic pieces. Rousing symphonies and con-

temporary favourites will make this a magical night of family entertainment.

The show features the Kent Sinfonia, a 60 piece orchestra with exuberant conductor Paul Hoskins as well as the Paul Dunton Orchestra, who will perform favourites associated with The Last Night of the Proms. Also playing are glamorous violin duo Elektra who are an exciting and diverse pair that have supported Leona Lewis, Moloko, Katherine Jenkins and Michael Buble and secured TV performances include X Factor and Strictly.



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www.kentnews.co.uk ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

LEEDS & CASTLE KENT, ENGLAND

Diamond Jubilee Fireworks & Open Air Cinema Evening

3 June

Enjoy an evening of live music, vintage newsreel of the Coronation and a screening of the classic 1950s themed film "Grease". A magnificent fireworks display accompanied by music will follow the film.

Adult £20, Child (under 16 years) £15
Book online or call 01622 880008.

Booking fee applies. Film is rated PG. Gates open at 6pm.






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JUNE ISSUE 2012

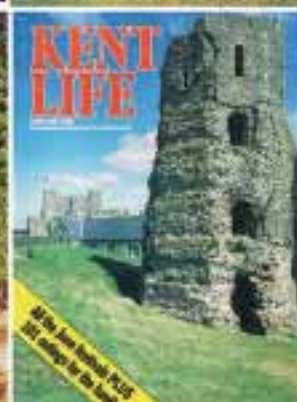
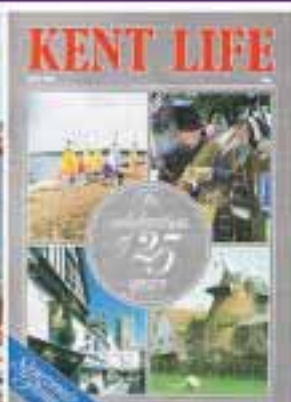
Golden Anniversary souvenir issue of *Kent Life*
on sale from 23 May
Special Diamond Jubilee Supplement
Business and Professional Life

THREE SUPPLEMENTS IN ONE!


The Kent Life magazine cover features a collage of three images: a landscape with a river and trees, a coastal scene with cliffs and the sea, and a steam train. The text on the cover includes 'Kent Life', 'THE YEAR AHEAD as viewed by Jackie Davis', and 'THE HISTORY OF KENT by John Edward Wilson'.

Sponsored by Audley More House





EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Caught in a trap? See an Elvis champion

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Friday, May 25
01622 758 611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

RECOGNISED as the "Official European Champion" by winning Europe's largest Elvis competition, Rob Kingsley is heading to Maidstone. Kingsley has been endorsed by Elvis Presley Enterprises for his charity work and also by Mr Ed Bonja, Elvis Presley's official photographer and road manager, who worked closely with the king on more than one thousand concerts from 1970 to 1977.

Featuring his very own "The Cadillacs Band", Kingsley brings you a full evening of all the classic hits, from the early years through to the sensational "Vegas era" - with the finale being the concert Years. The act has the distinction of being the first Elvis tribute artist to perform live at the new Wembley Stadium.

Rock and roll A real tribute to 50s music

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
Saturday, June 9
01843 591750
www.granvilletheatre.com

A TOP rock and roll tribute act in heading to the Granville Theatre when Chris "Fender" Black brings the C'mon Everybody show to Ramsgate. Fans should grab drape jackets

and circle skirts out of the back of the wardrobe for an evening of unashamed 50's nostalgia. The music of legends like Bill Haley, Eddie Cochran, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly and Chuck Berry will be celebrated along with tributes to Brenda Lee and Connie Francis. The show, which has been running for six years, is master minded by guitarist and music industry veteran Chris 'Fender' Black. All the acts are completely live and are given full support by the Chris Black Orchestra, which includes authentic backing vocalists.



A right royal knees up! Jubilee show

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, May 31, 2pm
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE Diamond Jubilee deserves a big party and what better way to celebrate the Queen's 60 year reign than visiting the Orchard for your very own Right Royal Knees Up? While many people across the country will be hosting their own Diamond Jubilee parties visitors can enjoy this magnificent feat by watch the brand new production A Right Royal Knees Up.

From the 1940's to the new millennium and covering four weddings and a coronation, this is a show guaranteed to get your spirits soaring, your hands clapping and your voices bellowing out these timeless classics in our rousing flag waving finale. A Right Royal Knees Up will be at The Orchard Theatre on Thursday 31 May at 2pm. Tickets cost a bargain £12.50 and £14.50 respectively.



Free speech, well... sort of Jimmy Carr

Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Sunday, September 23
01227 787 787

COMEDY heavyweight and star of 8 Out of 10 Cats Jimmy Carr kicks off his new tour, Gagging Order, with one of his first gigs taking place at the new Marlowe Theatre.

King of the one liners Carr has brought his new tours to Kent venues on a number of occasions and often uses the gigs as a tester before larger stadium shows. Gagging Order, if it is anything like his other stand-up shows, will be packed full of stories, jokes and audience banter. Be warned, do not heckle him. Not scared of a bit of controversy, Carr is almost certain to approach subjects that no-one else would dare. Tickets are on sale now priced £25. Visit www.marlowetheatre.com for more details.

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STAGE & ARTS

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Green fingers and architects Planting day

Dover Esplanade

Sunday, June 17 11.30am
- 12.30pm
01892 515715

FLORA enthusiasts can come and plant local species on Dover Esplanade to boost the shingle gardens alongside a local expert. Visitors can plant red poppy, rock samphire, sea beet and wild carrot on Dover Esplanade with Paul Holt of the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership while enjoying the architecture of the area. The planting event is organised by Dover Arts Development and architects Tonkin Liu, whose transformation of the Esplanade won a Royal Institute of British Architects' Award in 2011. Plants will be supplied on the day, along with some equipment – but you are welcome to bring your own trowel and gloves. Please dress appropriately for the weather and for gardening – you may have to kneel on the shingle beds.



Mod legend Kink's Ray Davies live gig

Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Sunday, September 30
01227 787 787

FORMER Kinks frontman Ray Davies has announced a sate in Kent later this year. The man that will really get you going, has confirmed he will be playing the Marlowe

Theatre in Canterbury in September. Famous for songs like Lola and Sunny Afternoon, the group's mod style meant that the Kinks were at the forefront of British pop in the 60s and the height of cool Britannia. Sure to have the fans dancing all day and all of the night, Davies will no doubt bring his A game to the new venue. Tickets go on sale for the singer-songwriter's solo tour on Friday, May 18 priced at £33.50. Book early to avoid disappointment at www.marlowetheatre.com.



A fairy tale ending? Sleeping Beauty

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

Thursday, May 31, 7.30pm
01622 758 611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

A new production of fairy tale classic Sleeping Beauty has been brought to the Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone on May 31. With director Christopher Moore's Ballet Theatre UK at the helm the production is expected to dazzle ballet audiences across the country. Internationally acclaimed dancers, dramatic stage sets, elegant handcrafted costumes and Tchaikovsky's beautiful music combine to tell a story based on a loved fairy tale set in an enchanted world of castles, curses and fairies. Whether you've seen Ballet Theatre UK before or are new to the thrill of classical ballet, this dramatic new interpretation will have you captivated.

Stand-up of some stature Stewart Lee

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Friday, June 1
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

HAVING just played a sold-out twelve week London season to over 30,000 people at Leicester Square Theatre, Stewart Lee brings his new show, Carpet Remnant World, to Kent.

What can a middle-aged, married man, whose life now consists mainly of watching Scooby Doo cartoons with a four-year-old boy, possibly find to write comedy about? Formerly stand-up's youthful iconoclast, Lee explains how he now "gawps blankly at News 24 as Britain burns down around him, and blinks weirdly at the vast wayside retail outlets during endless journeys to and from increasingly indistinct provincial theatres." Once he lived on the pleasure planet. Now he is trapped in Carpet Remnant World.



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KENTEVENTS

Homes & Gardens

SLEEP tight when you snuggle up in a natural fibre duvet on a hand crafted bed, writes Gary Wright.

Duvets are normally made with man-made fibres or feathers, but one British couple has successfully used wool to make something special for the bedroom.

Husband and wife team Dick and Pauline Beijen bought their sheep during the summer of 2008 as the first step into their idea to create high quality, all natural woollen duvets, the challenge being to make a duvet which most importantly draped and behaved like a duvet (unlike a woollen quilt).

After months of development work filmed by Channel 4 in Monty Don's series *My Dream Farm*, Devon Duvets was born, promising "the softest, purest, and warmest ambience".

"The concept of using British wool in duvets and pillows was largely unthought of at that time and we are delighted that there is now a resurgence of interest in this wonderful, abundant British material," said Dick.

Devon Duvets now produces a range of high quality British Woollen duvets, pillows and mattress toppers from standard sizes to bespoke, adults to children; all individually handcrafted using materials of the highest quality.

"We are committed to creating totally unique and natural pillows, duvets and mattress toppers, which are sustainable and have a low carbon footprint; even their packaging and labels are produced in Britain."

From one new British success story to another: Frank Hudson, has 60 years of experience

Enjoy a good night's sleep



through three generations by one family.

Frank Hudson Ltd is acknowledged to be a leading specialist in the design and production of vintage furniture to the highest specifications. Inspired by such historic names as Chippendale and Sheraton.

The import of inferior-quality and replica products by large businesses has forced many smaller skilled British manufacturers to cease trading. In tackling this problem at its source and transferring its manufacturing operations

to dedicated and closely monitored partners in the Far East and Eastern Europe, Frank Hudson has refused to compromise on the standards demanded by its original founder.

In this way, Frank Hudson has been able to secure continuing production of exquisite furniture of the highest quality and all designed in Britain at affordable prices.

Supervision of the overseas manufacturing bases and of production to Frank Hudson's standards is maintained by an almost constant

presence of at least one of the third generation Hudson brothers Tim, James and Tom who were determined to maintain their rich heritage.

Frank Hudson will be showing its out-of-this-world Shakespeare four-poster at The Great British Home Show 2012 at Glow, Bluewater from May 31 to June 4.

Both Frank Hudson and Devon Duvets, along with British mattress manufacturers Hypnos and Relyon will be part of the Great British Bedrooms section of the show. There will also be sections devoted to gardens, home improvement, furniture, food and drink as well as an indoor street party to celebrate the Jubilee, with English wine provided by Chapel Down Vineyards.

Experts will be there each day in the How-To Theatre, demonstrating everything from getting the best from your tiling and wallpapering to making the most of your garden, including a presentation by TV presenter and author Alys Fowler. Celebrity DIYer Craig Phillips will also be at the show, along with DIY SOS' Oliver Heath.

Find out more about Frank Hudson beds and Devon Duvets at www.britishbedsworldwide.com which is hosting the Great British Bedrooms section of The Great British Home Show 2012.

For details see www.gbhomeshow.co.uk and readers can get two tickets for £12 for the show by ordering online and entering the code KOS1.



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Homes & Gardens



BEAUTY: It's such a shame it was raining on the day of advert filming, the blossom was beautiful

Clever gardening

LUCY'S PATCH

by LUCY HEWETT



THE London Marathon is done – so what's next? It was an amazing event to take part in; the crowds cheering you along every step of the way, calling your name. I raised more than £2,100 for Age UK thanks to some very generous friends and family.

The day after the marathon I filmed an advert for Hovis, The Great British Sandwich, when I talked about fruit and veg from The Garden of England. It was quite a full-on day, especially having to bend to attend to my seedlings for a couple of takes – I said you're lucky I can walk let alone bend. It's just a shame it rained all day.

Talking of rain, it is very difficult to sit here looking out at the persistent drizzle and talk to you about water saving techniques.

I am sure you will all have been taking notes from the news as he has told us what to do to save water, and you have all paid vast sums of money on extra water butts to catch as much rainwater as possible.

With that taken care of we need to think about anything else we can do: mulching is a great way of helping to keep the moisture locked in, and incorporating some drought resistant plants into your planting schemes will help as they

have low moisture and maintenance demands.

I'm a big fan of these anyway as I am not a manic waterer so I do like a plant to be able to tolerate the harshest of conditions that is the Hewett garden.

There are many lists of plants that are suitable for drought conditions, but here are a just a few of my favourites: Lavandula (Lavender); Hebe; Papaver somniferum (Oriental Poppy); Ceanothus (California lilac); Osteospermum jucundum; Euphorbia (be careful to make sure the one you choose is not invasive); Eryngium; Echinops; Cosmos bipinnatus; Nigella damascena; Gazania; Eschscholzia californica (California poppy); Stipa gigantea; Pennisetum rubrum; Briza media; Pelargonium; Verbena bonariensis; Iris; Alliums; Agapanthus; Buddleja (Butterfly bush); Fatsia Japonica; Sedum – to name a few – once you start planting you will be convinced these well behaved plants are the way to go.

Remember, it's best to buy them small, so giving them a chance to acclimatise as they develop, also look for silver or grey-green leaved plants, their light leaf colour reflects the harsh rays of the sun (fingers crossed) some also have a fine coating of hairs on the leaves or stems helping to trap moisture. Don't forget to give them and the ground a good soaking when planting to give them the best start possible.

Jobs to do in the garden this month:

Flowers

Boost blooms by dosing flowering plants with diluted tomato feed weekly or use seaweed feed for foliage plants.

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Homes & Gardens

to save on water

Pick blackspot leaves off roses before they spread; wipe off greenfly and blackfly armies with your fingers. Dead-head regularly to ensure further blooms.

Plant out summer bedding plants, if not already done, to give colour through to the first frosts. Plant out dahlias once the risk of frost has passed.

Cut back dead bulb foliage if not already done, wait until the foliage dies down naturally as cutting back too early can lead to no flowers next year. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of bulbs once they have finished flowering.

Spring flowering shrubs can be pruned when over, to encourage next year's growth.

Stake tall perennials to avoid wind damage.

Cut back and deadhead Oriental poppies, after flowering, right back to ground level you will stimulate growth and may even get some new blooms from these gorgeous flowers. Mulch and feed them too.

If you are feeling very organised and want to grow your own spring bedding for next year you will need to sow these before July.

Inspect lilies for the scarlet lily beetle whose larvae can strip plants in days.

Grow your own

Strawberries Grow these in hanging baskets or anywhere off the ground, they will be easier to pick and slugs and snails can't eat them but net them if outside or the birds will.

Other fruit: thin out plums and apples to prevent broken branches and help remaining fruit get larger.

Potatoes Harvest new potatoes when plants are in full flower. I think that calls for a very quick and tasty potato salad – just boil potatoes with skins on, drain, once cooled stir in sour cream, mayo, chives and season. Also harvest lettuce and spring onions; radish; beetroot (don't forget to sow some more for consecutive salad crop); summer cabbage and early carrots.

Tomatoes I had a bit of bad luck with blight in my polytunnel, so I now put tomatoes in grow bags but instead of planting them in a row as the bag suggests, I give the bag a bit of a bash to loosen the compost then cut it into two equal halves. I then stand them on end and plant the tomato into each half so the tomato has more compost to grow in a sort of bag/pot.

Once plants get going remove any side shoots as they appear; keeping one main stem which should be tied to a supporting cane. You have to keep on top of these unruly beasts or left unattended they will be out of control. Feed weekly once the first trusses of fruit have set.

Sow French and runner beans, maincrop peas, beetroot, carrots, swedes, turnips, cauliflowers, chicory, kohlrabi, sweetcorn, courgette, marrow, cucumber, squash.

No matter what the seed packet says I always plant all my seeds in pots in the greenhouse first as I have tried on many occasions to plant them direct outside and they never come up. I think I have too many little visitors in my garden so I would rather do the work inside first, get them established and then plant them out. The only exception to that is runner beans where I just



REBIRTH: Cutting back your Oriental poppies after flowering increases your chance of extra blooms

put two or three seeds in the hole and hope the mice leave me at least one.

Plant out Broccoli, calabrese, Brussel sprouts, summer cabbage, French and runner beans, leeks, celery and outdoor tomatoes. Shade your greenhouse to prevent scorch.

So I will wrap up by trying to convince you that you are very lucky, jolly lucky to have such varied weather in this country enabling us to grow such a range of beautiful

plants and flowers, have I convinced you?

I don't have to convince myself because I am (quite a rarity I fear these days) someone who loves England and all its weather. I do have trouble convincing my husband Terry what a wonderful place it is when the rain has not stopped for two weeks, but hopefully by the time you read this the sun will have graced us with her presence again and I will once again have a happy brown-faced husband.



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Homes & Gardens

Bold chairs make a colourful statement to grace any room

SOMETIMES a single piece of furniture can transform a room, providing a beautiful centrepiece that grabs attention, writes Gary Wright.



STYLE: The chairs combine fabric and leather to grab your attention

For many designers it is the single detail in a room that makes the difference and there is little to match that special chair and the new Wanted Collection by glimpze which is sure to be on many people's wish list.

All are hand-made in beechwood, generously upholstered, then French polished by British craftsmen.

The Wanted Collection was launched initially with six art form chairs "each of which tells a different story," says Michael Wiley, the man behind the innovative company.

The collection has been supplemented by a new range of leopard and cowhide chairs – and there are new two-seaters as well, which will be shown for the first time later this month at The Great British Home Show 2012.

Michael said: "These chairs stand tall and impressive, with a blend of designer splendour, timeless wools and rich faux-leather fabrics making them sumptuous chairs which are both tactile and supremely comfortable."



"Displaying their cascade of strong colours and patterns, they will grace any room and never lose their power to amaze."

The glimpze furniture will be on



show at The Great British Home Show 2012 at Glow, Bluewater.

To find out more about glimpze visit the website www.glimpze.co.uk and see the its complete collection at The Great British Home Show

2012, from May 31 to June 4.

See the website for more details www.gbhomeshow.co.uk and our readers can get two tickets for £12 for the show by ordering online and entering the code KOS1.

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Exclusive styling for your little star

Gabrielle Fagan discovers the high price world of celebrity nurseries

SINGER Beyonce and her husband Jay-Z have reportedly splashed out £1 million on their new baby's nursery, including a diamante encrusted high chair especially for daughter Blue Ivy Carter.

Of course every baby is a star in its proud parents' eyes – but celebrities certainly like to give theirs the red-carpet treatment from the moment they're born.

When it comes to creating a nursery, nothing but the best will do and no luxurious detail is overlooked, whether it's furniture embellished with glittering crystals, elaborate fantasy murals, or exquisite hand-built furniture.

As well as a miniature pink bath, studded with 45,000 Swarovski crystals, and matching high chair (£10,000), they're also said to have picked up a solid gold rocking horse.

And while very few people have that sort of cash to splash – it can be good fun to see what tips you can pick up when kitting out your own home ready for a new member of the family to take up residence.

"It's certainly not unusual for those with wealth and status to opt for the 'wow' factor," says Lizzie Mackey, senior designer at nursery boutique Dragons of Walton Street, London, which boasts many celebrity clients.

"This is a room on which people lavish a huge amount of care, attention and money. And they want it to match the rest of their home and style.

"They view a nursery as a particularly special



space. After all, it's their child's first view of the world, so getting it right is incredibly important to them."

On-trend parents are opting for more colour and personality in their rooms, and moving away from neutrals, she says. There's a desire to create out-of-this-world settings, often featuring hand-painted murals.

"One of my favourite nurseries had a cot upholstered to resemble a fluffy cloud, with

drapes hung with crystal droplets to replicate rain drops, and we created a mural to resemble a glowing pink sunrise and sky. It cost around £90,000."

The company furnished a nursery for singer Lily Allen, whose daughter, Ethel Mary, was born in November. It supplied pieces hand-decorated with ladybirds and bumblebees.

"She fell in love with a fabric which featured garden insects and we worked around that theme. It was colourful and magical, but very peaceful," she says.

"People love bespoke details. For Elton John's baby son we made a miniature chair featuring musical notes. Clients view crafted bespoke pieces as heirlooms which can be handed down through the generations."

Even if your budget isn't celebrity-sized, you can be inspired by the style of Beyonce, Victoria Beckham, Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera. Create a knock-out nursery for your VIB (Very Important Baby) with our pick of best buys for baby.

The R&B singer Beyonce and her rapper husband Jay-Z are not known as the King and Queen of Bling for nothing, and their three nurseries sparkle with style, crystals and chandeliers.

"When my client is someone who 'models' nappies and takes naps the majority of the day, a room should be simple but stunning," says interior designer Lori Gardner who spent months creating the Swarovski crystal-studded baby bath for the couple.

Chill your drink, don't dilute it

THE Great British Home Show is not just about the dramatic changes, is also about the little touches that make life better – take for example Whisky Stones.

The cubes are hewn from Swedish granite that can stand extreme cold – and heat – which you drop into any drink and keep it chilled without it being diluted as it would as ice melted.

Use the Whisky Stones in your drink then rinse and re-use, time and time again.

Whisky aficionados will appreciate the effect that ensures their favourite tippie remains undiluted but they are also perfect for white wine, brandy... in fact any drink you wish to chill without altering its flavour.

The beautifully-crafted two centimetre cubes can stand extreme heat as well, so mulled wine, hot toddies and sake lovers will find an additional use for these attractive marbled stones.

"Your drink will remain chilled without watering down the taste ensuring the pure taste of the drink remains until the final drop," said Phil Jackson, sales director of Viking Stones.

Viking Stones will be exhibiting at The Great British Home Show 2012 adding another set of great ideas for showgoers to sample.

Supplied in gift packs with nine cubes and a black velvet storage pouch, Whisky Stones are just one of its range of excellent gift and home ideas, which also include Himalayan salt lamps and candle holders.

The Great British Home Show 2012 will be at Glow, Bluewater, from May 31 to June 4. More details at www.gbhomeshow.co.uk

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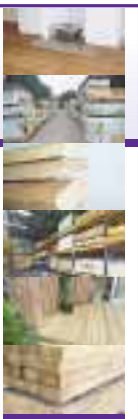
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Landlords support squatting law change

THE Landlord Syndicate, a network of companies providing a support centre for landlords, says it is relieved at the news that squatting is to become a criminal offence as of September.

One member of syndicate who has fought for some time to enforce this law, even supporting a campaign presented to Parliament in April 2011, is Paul Shamplina, the founder of Landlord Action.

He said: "Squatting cases have been on the rise for some time now, many by organised gangs whom have travelled thousands of miles to engage in squatting knowing they will



SUPPORTER: Paul Shamplina

be protected by the law.
"It was only when some high-profile cases hit the

headlines that people sat up and took notice of the growing injustice on homeowners."

Squatters will now face up to a £5,000 fine and a six-month prison sentence if they take up residence in another person's property.

But The Landlord Syndicate is warning landlords not to be complacent.

Mr Shamplina said: "Enforcing a law does not mean that the activity of squatting will be eradicated, it just means there are tougher measures to deal with it which should prevent landlords and homeowners having to enter into lengthy and expensive legal battles."



Development offers quality and style near town centre

JONES Homes is back in Rochester with a new town centre development.

With the sales office at Ruxton Square open from Thursday to Monday, prospective buyers can discuss the plans for this development with the sales team.

Ruxton Square is a development of two, three and four-bedroom homes located within easy walking distance of Rochester town centre and station.

The development boasts close attention to detail with traditional exteriors that complement those of the period properties in the neighbouring conservation area, contemporary interiors, a high-quality specification and the sense of quality that all home buyers appreciate.

Prices start at £155,000 for a two-bedroom home and from £205,000 for a three-bedroom property.

"Jones Homes has been operating in Kent for more than 15 years and we've built developments in Rochester before.

"Our excellent reputation for building high-quality homes means we've already had plenty of enquiries for the new homes at Ruxton Square," said Sara Stanhope, sales and marketing director for Jones Homes Southern.

"At Ruxton Square, buyers will have the opportunity to buy a traditional-style house, but enjoy all the benefits of buying new, including a 10-year structural warranty and the chance to have a blank 'canvas' that can be personalised according to their own taste and style."

For further information on Ruxton Square, Rochester, please call the Jones Homes' sales team on 01322 619750 from Thursday to Monday inclusive, 10am to 5.30pm or visit the website on www.jones-homes.co.uk.

Dragon to fire up property businesses

JAMES Caan is famous as one of the leading dragon's on BBC's Dragons Den, but the former TV star has recently revealed he is interested in helping property investors to start up.

Using his company Hamilton Bradshaw as his venture capital vehicle, Caan hopes to take advantage of the growing property market slump by backing 12 property start-ups.

He hopes to create a multifaceted company with an equity value of roughly £500 million, by

using a similar formula to that used on Dragons Den where he will put an equity stake into 12 property businesses in exchange for giving them the capital and his expertise to start up.

Caan is also aiming to back companies whom each have different qualities.

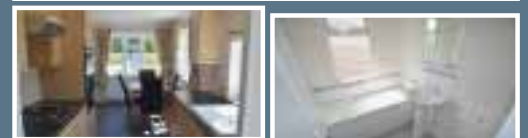
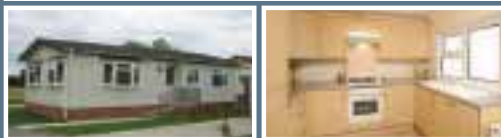
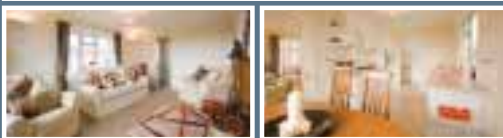
From property agents to interior designers to property developers, the entrepreneur wants to back 12 businesses which are different, but will all compliment each other

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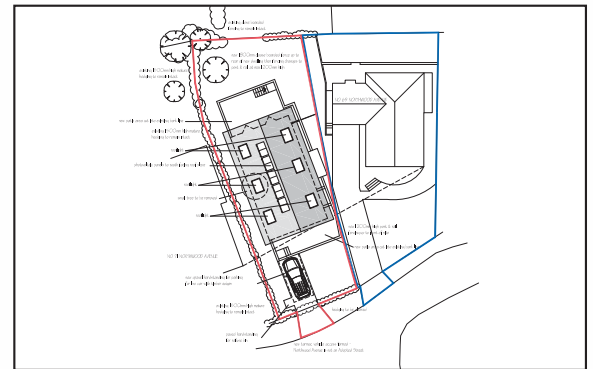
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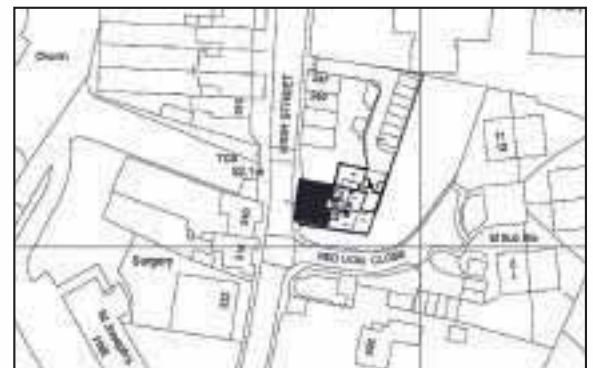
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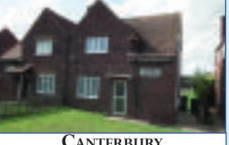









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First **GEAR** MOTORING NEWS

- The all-new Skyactiv shows Mazda at its best
- Evoque just keeps on picking up the awards
- Suzuki Splash won't land you in 'MOT' water



UK enjoying the ride as Chevrolet makes a big impression

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader

PORSCHE has a new generation Boxster on sale – the third in a line established in 1996.

The newcomer is certain to reiterate the Boxster's status as the benchmark open-top two-seater or roadster.

It's hardly surprising when you realise the original car was designed from the ground up to be a roadster, the first time Porsche had done this since the legendary 550 Spyder of the early '50s, which was designed for competition.

Some roadsters are still created from coupés, but often compromised in terms of rigidity and by extra weight needed for strengthening.

Porsche did it the other way around, later creating a 'Boxster Coupé' in the form of the 2005 Cayman, which followed the launch of the second generation Boxster (2004-11).

As with its 911 supercar big brother, Porsche has ensured the latest Boxster is visually derived from its predecessor; but while generations one and two were almost identical, the new car's all-new lightweight body has a distinctive look with sweeping lines leading into the trademark air intakes ahead of the rear wheel and highlighting the mid-engine layout that gives the Boxster such poise and balance.

Drawing attention to those intakes makes the car look more aggressive, adding to a more purposeful stance this time around, to complement a revised chassis.

A new fully electric hood opens to reveal a distinctive and typically stylish Porsche interior with more space and a centre console inspired by the German marque's Carrera GT supercar.

New Boxster prices start from £37,589, with the Boxster S flagship from £45,384, and the line-up has new horizontally-opposed or boxer engines that echo the car's name.

The Boxster's 265bhp 2.7-litre is 10bhp more powerful than its predecessor's 2.9 unit and is now based on the 315bhp 3.4 in its Boxster S sister. Both engines come with a manual six-speed gearbox as standard, with Porsche's seven-speed dual-clutch PDK auto-manual 'box as an option.

It is the latter that delivers ultimate performance, allowing the 2.7-litre Boxster to hit 62mph in 5.5 seconds, with the Boxster S needing just 4.8.

The new Boxster is not only impressive looking, but the body is up to 35kg lighter according to model, while a 60mm longer wheelbase with shortened overhangs front and back, plus widened track on both axes should add to stability and agility.

Porsche says the latest Boxster S lapped the testing German Nürburgring-Nordschleife race circuit in 7:58 minutes – lopping 12 seconds off the time clocked by its predecessor.

But even Porsche has to admit it can't all be about performance nowadays, so while the new faster range is also more fuel efficient, by up to 15 per cent. Official combined fuel consumption for the Boxster with PDK is 36.7mpg – the Boxster S with PDK returns 35.3mpg combined.



PORSCHE BOXSTER

Price:	from £37,589
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	BMW Z4

New third generation Boxster here to pummel the opposition



A THING OF BEAUTY:

Porsche's new Boxster looks more aggressive than its predecessor boasting a fully electric hood, larger interior and lighting body giving it more fuel efficiency

DON'T LIKE

...the price. Everyone should be able to afford a Boxster but, then again, exclusivity is part of the ownership experience and good for residuals.

NOT SURE

... buyers need to pay extra for the Boxster S. Past generations show that any Boxster flatters the driver and flattens the opposition

REALLY LIKE

... how Porsche has, as usual, sharpened the looks of the latest generation yet ensured that it is instantly recognisable as a Boxster.



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11(61) Boxster 2.9 PDK (987) £38,999
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11(61) Boxster 2.9 (987) £36,999
Basalt Black/Black, 18" Boxster S II wheels, Climate, Tel module, Park Assist, W/deflctr, UAI, Htd/seats, PSM, 10 miles



11(11) Boxster PDK 2.9 (987) £33,950
Platinum Silver/Ocean Blue, 19" Carrera S wheels, Climate, Htd/seats, Park Assist, W/deflctr, UAI, Tel module, PSM, 5,700 miles



11(11) Boxster S (987) £39,995
Meteor Grey/Black, 19" Turbo wheels, PCM, Nav, Tel module, Htd/seats, Park Assist, VTS, UAI, 3,200 miles



11(11) Boxster S (987) £35,990
Arctic Silver/Black, 19" Turbo wheels, Bose, Htd/seats, Park Assist, W/deflctr, UAI, Tel module, Climate, 3,400 miles



11(61) Boxster 2.9 PDK (987) £33,950
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MOTORING

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Freelander 2 has got what it takes, both on and off the road

By Steve Loader

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LAND Rover's Freelander 2 suffered tough love from me after its launch in 2006, but I softened in the end.

Not that the UK 4x4 icon's robust looking junior model really needs an easy ride, but my offish manner was more down to the failings of the Mark 1 Freelander.

That car's adherence – literally – to Land Rover's off-roading heritage was impressive, but I couldn't love a car styled to shout 'rugged and dependable' when it wimped out so often through flaky build and poor reliability.

I can remember the sainted Clarkson reviewing the original car at launch and questioning whether it would be reliable; the then LR marketing chief said he was so confident that it would stay the course that JC could come round and burn his house down if it failed – the bloke must be living in a cardboard box under the arches now, because Top Gear's enfant terrible closed the report by waving a box of matches at the camera.

Fortunately, the bigger Freelander 2 has shown it really can 'walk the talk' as a quality runabout, building site/rural workhorse and ideal 4x4 for outward bound and alpine holidays.

It's dearer than most compact 4x4s, but you get genuine off-road power – rivals are usually little more than 'soft-utility-vehicles', more politely labelled SUVs (sports utility vehicles).

Unlike bigger Land Rovers, the Freelander does not have low ratios, but the low down power of the 2.2-litre turbodiesel and several driving aids, plus the Hill Descent Control feature introduced on the original Freelander, is enough to boost and control the car up and down steep slopes by cleverly assigning traction individually to the four wheels as required.

I proved the point before at a Land Rover Experience Centre, crashing up and down steep slopes slippery with mud and littered with flinty boulders.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 HSE: PRICE £33,750

FACT FILE



Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Road tax: £170/year
Best rival: VW Tiguan Escape

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IT'S ROUGH AND READY:

By making the Freelander 2 bigger Land Rover has shown that it can really 'walk the talk' with genuine off-road power, but still has good on-road quality

The car also romped through the site's 'elephant's footprints'; craters and hillocks that show how Land Rovers can balance diagonally on just two wheels without being halted or twisted by the terrain.

Unlike its predecessor, there was no creaking from dodgy interior fittings.

Of course, most 4x4 buyers never pose such a stern test, even if that's like buying a pair of wellies and wearing them as slippers, but it proves the Freelander's prowess in any conditions including snow and ice.

And it is not as if the car's superb but little used off-road ability compromises its on-road qualities: it handles tidily and comfortably with little body roll on the bends.

Steering feedback is good too – you need it off-road as much as on. Though larger than the old car, it also feels nimble.

The diesel's off-road clout works equally well on-road and it is impressively refined. There is

also a greener option for our hard and environmentally-conscious times – front-wheel drive only versions from £22,250-33,000.

The Freelander interior is comfortable and finished to a high standard whatever the spec, though workmanlike rather than stylish – the Freelander can now comfortably leave the flashy stuff to its new Range Rover Evoque stablemate.

Most controls fall to hand well and there is plenty of stowage.

Comfort levels are good front and back with a good high-up view from the cabin and a decent boot space for luggage behind that.

Power comes from a range-wide 2.2-litre four-cylinder turbodiesel, available in 150bhp and 190bhp outputs – with the latter available only with a six-speed automatic.

In all cases, performance is lively for a car of this size and bulk while full consumption is surprisingly good, with the manual 150bhp test car capable of an official combined 45.6mpg.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Skyactiv adds more to Mazda

MAZDA this week launched not just an all-new crossover/SUV, but also new technologies and design templates.

Priced from £21,395, the CX-5 features Skyactiv: car design and production concentrating on a lightweight chassis and advanced powertrains.

It is available with front-wheel or all-wheel drive and best in class CO2 emissions of 119g/km and combined fuel economy of 61.4mpg.



Evoking yet more awards

RANGE Rover's eye-catching Evoque has added to its impressive sack of awards by landing the coveted Diesel Car of the Year 2012 title.

Diesel Car editor Ian Robertson said of the overall award winner: "It looks sensational, is neatly kitted out, has exemplary road manners and comes with a price tag that doesn't usually grace a Range Rover-badged product."



Suzuki makes a MOT splash

ANALYSIS of 24.5 million MOT records by the honestjohn.co.uk website showed one in five cars registered in 2008 failed their first MOT, with testers most likely to fail cars from French firms.

However, the survey delivered a big plus for Japanese marque Suzuki, whose Splash mini-MPV proved to be the three-year-old least likely to fail at the first MOT fence.

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MOTORING

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Chevrolet's popularity shifts up a gear in UK



AMERICAN DREAMER: Chevrolet's MPV's the Orlando (far left) and the Spark city car have proved very popular with British buyers, offering high specifications with excellent prices

CHEVROLET has come a long way in just a few years in the UK, but it's not so surprising when you know it's the number one brand with General Motors – one of the world's biggest car-makers.

Founded in 1911 by talented Swiss-American racing driver and motor engineer Louis Chevrolet, the brand is a giant at home, where it secured more than a third of the market last year.

It also features heavily in American culture, music and films, getting a name check in Don McLean's nostalgic song American Pie, and creating icons like the Corvette and Camaro sporting models.

The UK story is shorter though, starting with General Motors' (GM) takeover of the former Daewoo Motors of Korea. By 2005, the former Daewoo range had become Chevrolet with the distinctive bow-tie badge.

Dave Faulkner, business manager and controller for the Perrys group Chevrolet dealership at Whitfield, Dover, said it's been quite a ride since then.

"I can't believe how much the brand has come on. I started with it at the former St George's dealership in Margate in 2005, and watched the line-up and quality boom," he said.

"This year we've seen the all-new Aveo arrive

– the first GM car to get the new small car platform to be seen later on the next Vauxhall Corsa – and also the amazing Volt hybrid, which is really an electric car without the range anxiety thanks to its own small onboard petrol engine recharging the batteries.

"We've also got a real halo car arriving soon – the Chevy Camaro muscle car.

"But I get excited by what we have to offer across the range, in terms of product and full NCAP safety spec.

"I think customers are attracted also by the mystique of a brand closely linked with US culture though, in tough times, there's no doubt

many like the keen price and five-year warranty; Aveos start at £9,995 for a smart supermini that drives well, but we also offer high spec Spark Plus city cars at £6,770 for those needing mobility at bargain basement prices.

"At the other extreme, we've been offering the high spec Orlando LTZ diesel – a good looking and distinctive seven-seat MPV that's also practical – with £4,000 off at £17,975. Another seven-seater, our big Captiva LTZ diesel SUV, can also be had for £6,500 less at £24,865.

"But our best offer is a £6,500 saving on a high spec Cruze 2.0 diesel saloon, now just £12,960, and all these include factory sat nav."



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RUGBY LEAGUE

Dragons looking to roar on the Broncos in Super League clash

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THIS weekend marks a major milestone for rugby league in the south with the visit of Super League giants London Broncos and Hull FC to Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium.

It's all the more pleasing for everyone involved at Kent's only rugby league side the Medway Dragons, based in Gillingham, whose players and supporters will be packing the Rainham End for the game which kicks off at 2pm on Sunday.

Most good ideas are born out of a discussion around a table in a pub, almost exclusively involving alcohol, but the for the Dragons, it was 12 men drinking tea and coffee who launched their dream of rugby league in the town a mere five years ago.

Their first training session involved just a handful of youngsters, and now they have teams of all ages, girls and boys, and have this season started a wheelchair team for the first time.

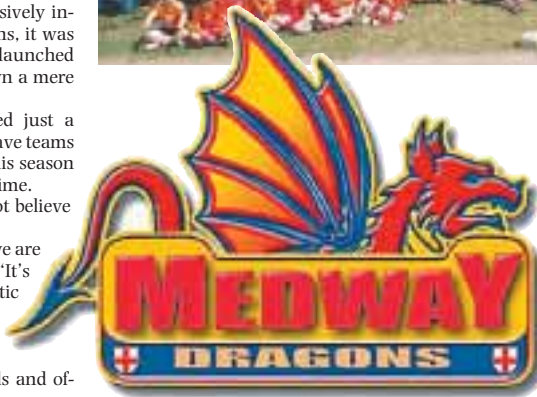
Chairman John Stanforth still cannot believe where the club has come from.

"We started off with no players and we are now running all these teams," he said. "It's been mad in a good way. It's fantastic that so many people have bought into what we are trying to do. None of this would be possible without the amount of people who have put up their hands and offered their time and experience."

Their success has even caught the eye of the sport's governing body, who offered to fast track the club from their regional amateur status to Championship level, which is a step below the Super League.

But while Mr Stanforth appreciates the sentiment he feels the club needs more time.

"What we have managed to create here has been down to our own time scale, nobody else's, we don't want to jeopardise what we have managed to build up," he said. "Further down the line it's going to be a whole different ball game, it

**PACKED:**

The Dragons' players and fans will be roaring on the Broncos at Priestfield on Sunday.

would be something completely different."

Another co-founder is Tim Holland, who helps coach. He said the club prides itself on making sure everyone gets the play, and cited a recent example of how it differs to other sports.

"We had one lad, he had been playing football locally, but he wasn't the football shape, so they just stuck him in goal," he said. "Basically he went to football and got cold, now he plays rugby league and he's never looked back."

"Unless it's a play-off game or cup game every-one who says they will turn up will play, we

never play the best team every week."

There are sure to be a number of spectators for whom it will be their first experience of the game, so here is a guide to get you through the match:

- There are 13 players per team, and 4 subs.
- Each team has six tackles or chances to score.
- If after six tackles they haven't scored the ball is handed over.
- It is played over two halves of 40 minutes.
- Four points for a try, followed by two points for a conversion, or for a penalty, and then one point for a drop goal.

IT'S NOT JUST A NORTHERN THING

IT'S a common belief that Rugby League is an alien concept for anyone south of Watford junction.

But the Dragons' community coach Mark Roughsedge couldn't disagree more, having seen first hand the passion for the game in Medway after moving south from Warrington, where it is treated like a religion.

He has worked for the past two years spreading the game into local schools and developing new sections of the club, having previously worked at his beloved Warrington Wolves.

"A couple of my friends have come down and they think it's amazing," he said. "A lot of people up north think it's just the London Broncos down south, what they don't know about is the amount of clubs in the area, they don't see the passion about the game."

"Everyone I have brought down here with that attitude has certainly gone back impressed."

"It's the best sport in the world, it's my religion."

"It could be the start of something special. People who go to watch it for the first time won't be disappointed."



MOTORSPORT

Host of racing stars set to appear in German touring car series at Brands

BRANDS Hatch is set for a German invasion this weekend as well as welcoming a Kent-born driver who has found fame on the continent.

The DTM Championship, which exclusively features Audis, BMWs, and Mercedes doing in excess of 100mph, takes place at the circuit this weekend, and in doing so brings Gary Paffett back to British tarmac.

The man from Bromley has been a revelation in the DTM series, and is currently its most successful active driver, with 19 wins to his name. He has won the series once, back in 2005 while also finishing runner-up three times.

After a successful opening few rounds the Mercedes driver, who is also a test driver for the McLaren F1 team, is at the top of the drivers leader board, 13 points ahead of nearest rival,

another Brit, and team mate Jamie Green.

DTM is a popular destination for former F1 drivers, with BBC commentator David Coulthard and Ralf Schumacher both driving for Mercedes, whilst moving in the opposite direction, 2010 DTM champion Paul Di Resta used the series as a career stepping-stone.

The F1 connection continues in the supporting VW Scirocco R-Cup race on Saturday, with 1996 World Champion Damon Hill making his first racing appearance since the 1999 Japanese Grand Prix. He'll be racing alongside friends Mark Blundell, Martin Donnelly, Julian Bailey, Perry McCarthy and David Brabham, all of whom appeared in the sport's top flight.

For autograph hunters the list doesn't stop there, as Jenson Button will be stopping by the circuit at 11am on Sunday

to meet fans and do a live question and answer session.

He will then take the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz DTM 'race taxi' alongside Paffett to do a lap of the track for the first time since his British F3 days in 1999.

BMW, who return to the DTM this year after a 20-year absence, will present a strong challenge to the Mercedes-Benz pairing, after an amazing comeback win last time out at the Lausitzring with Canadian driver Bruno Spengler.

Touring car legend Andy Priaulx, a three-time World Touring Car Champion, has a successful record at Brands Hatch. "I can't wait to drive Brands Hatch for the first time in a DTM car," he said. "There are going to be a lot of laps in the race, so there is not going to be any space between the cars and this will make it quite an intense sort of circuit to drive."

ON TOP: Bromley's Garry Paffett leads the way in the DTM series

FOOTBALL

ATHLETICS

Physios prepare to get Gills fighting fit for new season

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IF THERE are any physios who were put through their paces more than those at Gillingham this season then they must be robotic.

The men in the treatment room at Priestfield have had to deal with the staggering number of injuries, shown in the table to the right, which left former boss Andy Hessenthaler with a predictably inconsistent line-up.

The majority of injuries were sustained in matches and because of that it was out of the hands of physios Steve Allen and James Barker.

But they know things need to be different for next season and have already drawn up a sports science regime that it's hoped will keep more players off the casualty list.

"We have been unlucky, it's just cost us at a difficult time," said Allen.

"No-one went back and broke down because we made sure they got through the rehab."

He feels that possibly having less pre-season games this summer might reduce the risk of injuries throughout the season.

"We had 12 last year," he said. "It was difficult because he (Hessenthaler) needed to see them play, that's why he gave them the opportunity."

"It got us off to a flying start, but we got a little bit fatigued at times. That's probably something we need to look at."

"And maybe get the double sessions back at the start of the season: have a cardio-vascular session in the morning, and strength and power in the afternoon and injury prevention."

GILLINGHAM'S TEAM OF CROCKS			
Player	Injury	Games missed	Suspended
Danny Kedwell	Big toe, cracked ribs, hamstring	5	
Danny Jackman	Knee, hamstring strain	6	
Chris Whelpdale	Illness, stitches, calf and groin injuries	8	
Joe Martin	Calf strain, left ankle	11	3
Jack Payne	Knee ligaments, twice, hamstring	16	
Ross Flitney	Knee surgery	11	
Charlie Lee	Ankle, shin, and back	8	6
Lewis Montrose	Illness	1	6
Andy Frampton	Illness, ankle	13	1
Jo Kuffour	Illness, patella tendonitis	6	
Gary Richards	Hamstring, toe, broken leg	12	
Matt Lawrence	Knee	2	1
Curtis Weston	Thigh strain, knee surgery	14	
Matt Fish	Groin strain, ankle	14	
Simon King	Knee	9	
Gavin Tomlin	Hamstring tear, knee.	13	
Danny Spiller	Ankle and ankle surgery	13	3



"It's about getting the balance right. You have got to be an athlete first and a footballer second these days. Years ago you never used to get all these injuries, but the game has got so much quicker and the demands are so much greater on the body."

One player not on the list is striker Adam Birchall who damaged his knee in a friendly against Welling United in July, but he is on the road to recovery and may well have featured in the play-offs had Gillingham made it.



HOPEFUL: Jack Green wants place at Olympics

Green confident of his path to the top – and it's all thanks to his mum

IF THERE'S one thing Olympic hopeful Jack Green doesn't suffer from it's a lack of confidence – something he can blame his mum for.

The 20-year-old who is hoping to represent Team GB in the 400m and 4x400m relay in east London this summer was just a youngster when the first seeds of fearlessness started growing in his mind.

It's the kind of confidence that has taken him to the top of the sport despite his age, having last summer been crowned under-23 European champion as well as appearing in the semi-finals of the World Championships in South Korea, which by his own admission wasn't good enough.

Looking back at it now it's easy for the Maidstone-born man to see where his confidence comes from.

"My mum's job was building self-esteem in kids," he said. "I believe that probably rubbed off on me a little bit too much. She wasn't very confident when she was younger, she didn't want me ending up like that."

And Green certainly hasn't, as he continues to thrive in the spotlight in an industry which he believe lacks confidence.

He said: "Athletes are a little bit boring, but I'm just trying to create a nice atmosphere, because with the training we are boring people most of the time, because we train so hard we have got to be so focused."

It's been an intense year for Green who has more than doubled his training schedule to get ready for the biggest event of his life.

"I'm in great shape, a lot better than last year. I'm just looking forward to getting the quick times," he said. "I don't like talking times, if I don't run considerably quicker I will be very disappointed."

"Winning a major championship is a major thing, it's totally worth it for the 11 months of training, six times a week, four hours a day to run under 50 seconds – it's strange saying it like that."

"I have got an Olympic Games this year, I don't need any motivation. It's the biggest competition in the world. If you can't get motivated when you have got that around the corner, you're going to struggle."

Green will be in the Olympic squad should he qualify at the trials at the end of June.

Tour of East Africa beckons for trio of county's top players

THREE players from Kent have been chosen to represent the England Counties side on a tour of Africa next month.

Blackheath forwards Joe Bonner and James Cleverly, and Westcombe Park's forward James Lindfield, are part of the 26-man squad that will play three matches in Uganda and Kenya.

It's the largest tour undertaken by the country's county representative side as on their trip they will be carrying out coaching sessions and visits to raise the profile of rugby in their host nations.

The squad plays both Uganda and a combined East Africa side in Kampala before taking on the challenge of an East Africa Invitation XV in Nairobi.

Team manager Michael Old said: "Selection has been particularly tough this year as the quality of players making themselves available for the County Championship continues to improve, but we are very pleased with the final line-up."

"Squad flexibility was a key consideration particularly in the specialist roles of prop, hooker and



INVOLVED: James Cleverly picked

scrum-half. In the event of injury or illness we will not be able to fly replacements out so it was important to have experience across positions; props Jared Saunders and David Dickinson have played at hooker whilst hooker, Joe Bonner can switch to prop, and Jack Smales, a wing/full back, has played regularly at scrum-half.

"I am confident it will be a very rewarding and humbling experience for all involved as we make a positive impact on our East African hosts both on and off the pitch."

Edwards becomes part of MCC elite next to 'heroes'

KENT star Charlotte Edwards has broken new ground to become the first woman to join the MCC world cricket committee.

It tops a fantastic week for the England captain who was also awarded the prize of England Women's Cricketer of the Year.

She is one of four new members which includes Kent coach Jimmy Adams, former England captain Michael Vaughan, and former Australian wicketkeeper Rod Marsh.

MCC world cricket committee chairman Mike Brearley said: "MCC is privileged and very grateful to have these four eminent cricketers, each with such deep knowledge of the game, agree to join the MCC world cricket committee."

"I am sure that all four will have much to contribute, and I look forward to welcoming them in person at the next meeting at Lord's in August."

Edwards said: "I'm passionate about the game of cricket and feel I've got plenty to add to the discussion."

"It's incredibly exciting thinking about sitting around a table with



EXCITED: Edwards happy with role

some of my heroes, guys like Steve Waugh, who I grew up watching and learning from as a kid.

"It'll be an amazing experience just to pick these guys' brains and talk cricket with them."

"On a broader level, it's great for the women's game that I've been given this opportunity."



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